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הגזמן האחר

JORDAN 3 Days \$ 170
EGYPT 4 Days \$ 79 See page 3
MAZADA TOURS

Jaffee Center head suggests modifying Oslo agreement

ISRAEL should seek a complete separation from the Palestinians and even pay them to stay away from jobs in the territories, Yossi Alpher, director of the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies (JCSS), said yesterday.

The Declaration of Principles contains an inherent contradiction between the territorial compromise component and the status of the settlements which cannot be touched, and when the agreement is implemented in Judea and Samaria, 100 Netzarim junctions will be created, he said.

Alpher was speaking at a news conference where JCSS presented its annual

Middle East Military Balance 1993-94, published by The Jerusalem Post.

Alpher proposed two modifications to the DOP: a protracted closure of the territories - even if it means paying the salaries of Palestinian laborers, at a cost of NIS 1 billion a year - and the opening of a dialogue with the PLO on incorporating elements of a permanent solution into the interim self-rule accords.

Alpher, who will publish a study on Israel's borders in two weeks, added that the contradiction in the DOP is only one obstacle threatening the continuation of the peace process. Islamic fundamental-

ism and the nuclear issue - weapons acquisition and the political debate surrounding it as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty comes up for renewal in 1995 - are the others.

This year's Middle East Military Balance is the most comprehensive ever, containing new maps and facts and figures on Chinese and North Korean arms transfers to the region. It deals with the DOP, the Cairo Agreement and the first months of implementation.

However, it came out too early to include the peace agreement with Jordan, which Alpher says provides "Israel with invaluable strategic depth on its eastern border."

ALON PINKAS

In the opening chapter on the peace process, the editor of the book, Maj.-Gen. (Res.) Shlomo Gazit, a former head of military intelligence, writes that in 1993 as a direct result of the peace process Israel encountered gestures and openness in the Arab world that would have been impossible in recent years.

"If we compare Arab reaction to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977 to the reaction to the Oslo Declaration of Principles, we note that in 1993 Israel encountered gestures that would have been impossible in the not too distant past," Gazit writes.

Dr. Ephraim Kam, who contributed a chapter on "The Iranian Threat," says the danger Iran poses to Israel "is of very limited scope and nature."

"The Iranian threat is exaggerated when we dismember its components and analyze them. Iran has no nuclear capabilities and is a decade away, if at all, from attaining such capabilities," writes Kam. Iran has serious economic and social problems, he notes, adding that these trends lead to some moderation in conducting foreign policy.

In a chapter devoted to the proliferation of non-conventional weapons in the region, Yiftah Shapir compares Iraq's nuclear program with that of Iran.

"A comparison between nuclear-related activities in Iran in 1993 and those which took place in Iraq during the early 1980s reveal that the sort of emergency program observed then in Iraq did not appear to exist in Iran in 1993... Tehran still invested in its nuclear program less in 1993 than it did before 1979, and 40 percent less than what Iraq expended."

Arafat celebrates 'independence day'

New PA powers in Bethlehem, Ramallah; PLO executive meeting a bust

JON IMMANUEL

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat hosted "independence day" celebrations yesterday in Gaza. No prominent personalities from Islamic political movements took part, but there were signs that Islamic Jihad and the PLO were backing away from confrontation.

The symbolic funeral of Netzarim suicide bomber Hisham Hamad, thwarted by Gaza police on Monday, has been "postponed indefinitely" to prevent "shedding of Palestinian blood by Palestinian hands," a leading Jihad activist Nafiz Izzam told *An-Nahar* daily.

Diab Aljoubi, head of the PLO's media and culture department, told the *Post* that members of Islamic Jihad "have crossed the security red line but they have not yet crossed the political red line." By that he said he meant that in attacking Israelis "Islamic Jihad has not yet violated the unity between itself and other factions."

Security chief Nasser Yusef told *Al-Quds* that many of those arrested, now estimated at 170, may be released because there are no laws yet restricting activities of political factions.

PA Justice Minister Freih Abu Meidan said on Sunday that Islamic Jihad actions had crossed a political "red line," and he told the *Post* that by its actions it showed "there are two authorities." He said the law would deal severely with the movement and added that its spokesman Abdullah Shami had been arrested.

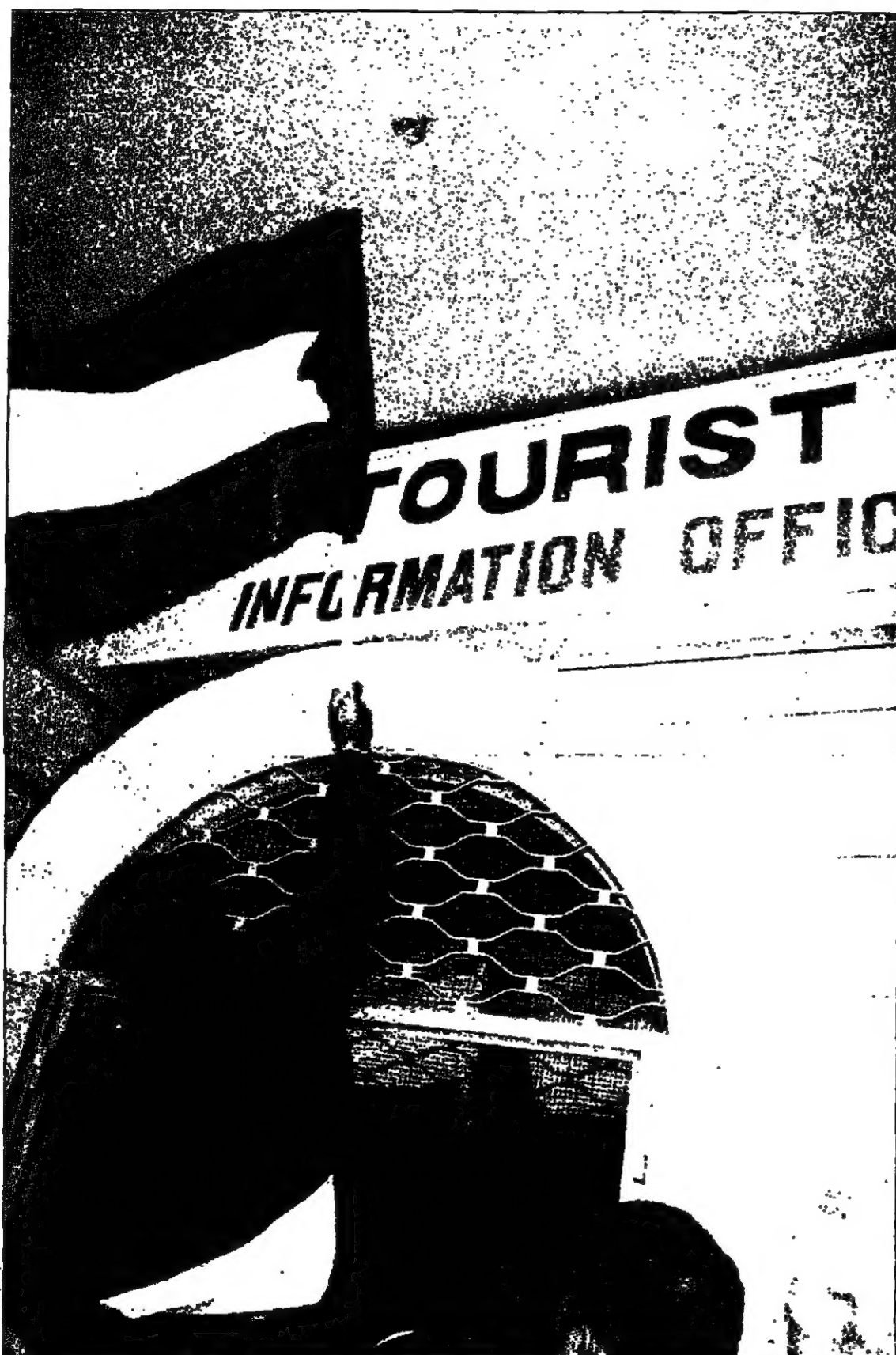
Various reports that Shami has been arrested, has surrendered or is still on the run, have been denied by PLO activists who say he is not even wanted.

In a leaflet yesterday, Islamic Jihad turned its hostility away from Arafat, who ordered the arrests, towards Israeli journalists, accusing them of campaigning against its leaders. It warned of "a strong response" if any of them was harmed. "It is a crime to link names like Abdullah Shami to the attack at Netzarim. He has no connection to any militant acts," it said.

In a separate leaflet, Islamic Jihad said "the TV of the enemy entrapped" their leader Fathi Shikaki into giving a telephone interview from Damascus to Israel reporter Linda Scherzer after she said she was from a British TV station. "The leadership of the Islamic Jihad can never give a press statement to the mass media of the enemy," it said.

In Gaza's streets there were banners, some in English, saying "The Kassam battalions will continue to kill Jews" and "Islamic Jihad in Palestine will take revenge for Hani Arafat." Kassam is the military wing of Islamic Jihad.

In Gaza City's Yarmuk stadium where Arafat delivered an address to some 5,000 spectators yesterday, the atmosphere was more pleasant. Marching bands and children in colorful clothes enlivened the occasion, the sixth anniversary of Arafat's 1988 declaration in Algiers of a Palestinian state.



Bethlehem residents celebrate the transfer of new powers from the civil administration outside the town's tourist information office yesterday. (Stein/Haran)

It was the first celebration since Arafat signed the Gaza/Jericho accord making him Israel's partner in the peace process. But at one point in his speech he referred to Israel as the enemy. "In 1974 the Palestinian National Council took a decision to establish a Palestinian national authority on any lands the Israeli enemy withdrew from," he said. Then he checked himself and said "which the Israelis withdrew from."

Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders stayed away from the event despite being invited, but some sports clubs identified with Hamas took part.

While the festivities were being held, the civil administration transferred new powers to the Palestinian Authority in ceremonies held in Ramallah and Bethlehem.

In Ramallah, the PA took charge of 16 social welfare offices and 200 employees and in Bethlehem it was handed the local tourist office. The Health department and the Taxation department are to be handed over in two weeks, completing the "early empowerment" in five spheres promised in Oslo. The education department was transferred in August.

A PLO executive committee

meeting planned for last night in Gaza to discuss the next stage in negotiations underlined the lack of unity in PLO ranks. Only half the 18 members turned up, three less than the required quorum.

Most members living abroad, including Abu Mazen, architect of the Oslo accords, boycotted it as premature.

It was almost canceled when two members, Jawad Ghusein and Ali Yishak arrived, from abroad.

Some others who live here such as the Palestine People's Party leader Suleiman Najjab boycotted it saying it should be held in Tunis.

Settlements won't be moved for now - PM

HERB KEINON

NO Jewish settlement will be removed during the interim period of the agreement with the PLO, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday, after visiting military installations in Gaza and talking with Netzarim residents on the outskirts of their settlement.

"In the Declaration of Principles, we were firm [in saying] that during the interim period of the agreement no settlement will be uprooted," Rabin said. "We demanded this, the Palestinians agreed to it, it is included in the agreement, and it is my intent to carry it out."

Rabin's statement comes amid increasing calls to move Netzarim, a settlement of 31 families in the heart of Gaza located between Gaza City, El-Bureij and Nuseirat.

Rabin said that although there is a deep political argument between Labor and Likud over the settlement map, "this is not now a subject for argument. We came to an agreement with the Palestinians that for the interim period,

and until we come to a final agreement through negotiations, the settlements will remain where they are."

Rabin said the IDF is responsible for the security of all the Jews in Gaza. He added that although it is impossible to prevent all terror attacks, "we expect more effort than we have seen so far from the Palestinians."

The prime minister also expressed his "appreciation" to the settlers who, he said, are "facing a difficult reality and are acting responsibly, and are continuing with their daily lives."

Rabin was escorted on his 90-minute visit to the military outposts at Netzarim and Gush Katif by Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak, and OC Southern Command Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz. During the visit he also met with Gaza Coast Regional Council head Zvi Hendel.

At the outskirts of Netzarim, the prime minister was greeted by children from the settlement who sang when he arrived and present-

ed him with a gift. The security guards escorting the prime minister kept adults from approaching Rabin, but the prime minister decided to go talk to them.

Netzarim resident Miri Harari said that Rabin shook hands with the residents, and asked them how long they had lived there, and where they were from. She characterized the conversations as "warm and friendly."

This meeting was a stark contrast to the demonstration Netzarim residents held across from Rabin's office in Jerusalem in May after Rabin told journalists, "If that [Netzarim] is a settlement, I am a thingamajig [kuglager]."

Harari said the reason the Netzarim residents greeted Rabin with songs and a gift, instead of with chants and a protest, was because "first and foremost he is the prime minister, and we are a part of the state. The last couple of days have been very difficult for us. We have come under attack from a number of people, but Rabin has repeatedly declared there is no room now to talk about moving Netzarim."

Israel considers giving up US economic aid gradually

Rabin leaves for week-long visit to US

ALON PINKAS and JOSE ROSENFELD

ISRAEL is considering gradually and voluntarily relinquishing the \$1.2 billion in US economic aid it receives annually, a senior minister said yesterday.

The move would help President Bill Clinton deal with a new Republican Congress and prevent any upcoming debate over aid to Israel.

On the eve of his trip to the US, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said yesterday that he doubted aid to Israel would be cut.

"I believe we will continue to receive the same amount of aid, because in today's circumstances Israel needs the aid to strengthen its security," he told reporters at Netzarim.

"Americans from all parties have realized that only a strong Israel can prevent wars, contribute to stability and tranquility in the region and make it possible...to take calculated risks for peace," Rabin said.

Rabin later left for a week-long visit to the US, including a meeting with President Clinton on Monday.

Meanwhile, Senator Jesse Helms told Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich yesterday that his opposition to foreign aid does not include Israel, which is a special exception.

According to Israel Radio, Helms told Rabinovich that a strong Israel serves American interests in the Middle East,

and that takes money.

The idea of a voluntary relinquishment of the \$1.2b. in annual economic assistance has been frequently deliberated in diplomatic circles since the 1992 presidential elections in the US, and was supported by officials in the Foreign Ministry, Israeli embassy in Washington, and Treasury, according to the minister.

Another discussion on the issue took place several days ago as indications emerged pointing to a possible US review of the entire foreign aid issue.

Most of the \$1.2b. is used to repay Israel's debts to the US, but the minister stressed that Israel is capable of repaying debts without the aid. Israel currently owes the US nearly \$3.5b.

"There are immense political advantages in voluntarily saying to the US: 'Thanks for years of assistance, but we are now financially stable and wealthy enough to get along without it,'" the minister said.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel yesterday emphasized the important role US aid to Israel plays in easing the financial burden of the peace process and the continued absorption of immigrants.

At a meeting with US Senator Barbara Boxer from California,

who is heading an American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) delegation visit here, Frenkel responded to the concerns raised by Helms's threat to cut aid to the Middle East.

Frenkel noted that Israel now finds itself in a very special period where its economy is burdened with the need to maintain the peace process and its security. He added that the economy also needs to continue expanding to create jobs to enable the absorption of new immigrants. Therefore, if properly used, US assistance will provide a strong impetus for encouraging these processes, he said.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said in a Channel One interview over the weekend that he did not expect any changes in US assistance to Israel. According to Shohat, the US recognizes the unique challenges facing the country including the absorption of 75,000 immigrants a year, and the fact that Israel is using billions of shekels of its own money to implement its peace agreements.

"Hypothetically, if aid will be affected, it will mean that we will have to deal with it at the budgetary level, and that is not a small problem," said Shohat. The government will either have to raise taxes or cut services, he said.

Herb Keinon contributed to this report

Higher fruit and vegetable prices kick CPI up 1.4%

JOSE ROSENFELD

INFLATION accelerated slightly in October, as an exceptional rise in fruit and vegetable prices pushed up the Consumer Price Index 1.4 percent.

Rahamin Ozama, head of the Central Bureau of Statistics' price division, estimated that inflation based on the past 10 months is now running at 14.6% annually.

Fruit and vegetable prices continued running ahead of housing prices last month, contributing 0.4% to the index, while housing only added 0.2%. Together they made up for over 40% of last month's increase in prices.

October fruit and vegetable prices surged 7.7%, rising 38.4%

in the past year, compared with 25.2% for housing. Fresh vegetable prices shot up 22.4% last month, while fresh fruit prices dropped 2.9%.

The price of tomatoes, which became an issue of national interest recently when reaching about NIS 10 a kilogram, jumped 53% last month. However, even with such an impressive increase, the price of tomatoes averaged NIS 6 in October, Ozama said.

Cabbage prices rose 46.3%, as did the prices of eggplant (36.6%), cucumbers (28.2%), green peppers (25.3%), lettuce (22.9%), beets (19.4%) and zucchini (17.2%). By contrast, avocado prices dropped 24.3%, bananas 18.8%, tangerines 18.3%, melons 12%, lemons 10.9%, mangos 10.6%, and oranges 10%.

The cost of a standard basket of goods and services for the average urban family rose to NIS 6,225, including housing, compared with

NIS 6,070 in September. Excluding housing, the basket cost NIS 4,780 compared with NIS 4,705.

For the third month in a row, housing prices moderated their upward course, after accelerating in previous months and heating up overall inflation. According to the bureau's bi-monthly housing price survey, during August and September prices rose 1.4% compared to 1.8% in the previous two months. This was the lowest increase registered since April through June 1993.

Apartment prices rose 1% last month, while rents rose a more moderate 0.2%, bringing the overall increase in housing prices to 0.9%.

"This index gives off very mixed signals," said Economic Modeling and Forecasting head Jonathan Katz. "On the one hand, housing price increases have come down,

while on the other hand, underlying inflation - which excludes housing, fruits and vegetable and government-controlled prices - remains unchanged."

Katz pointed to the significant rise of 1.5% in the Producer Price Index as a leading indicator for future CPI increases. The surge reflected the higher cost of commodities and the fact that producers were passing on to consumers the 3.7% Cost-of-Living wage adjustment, Katz said.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel said the index was high and called for determination and perseverance in fighting inflation, hinting at a possible hike in interest rates.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur blamed each other for the high price of tomatoes. Shohat expressed dissatisfaction with the Agriculture Ministry's slow and inefficient handling of

fruit and vegetable imports to stem higher prices.

Tsur, on the other hand, accused the Treasury of creating the shortage by failing to provide enough financial support to growers to encourage them to plant and maintain a large supply.

Tsur also blamed the rise in prices on the decision to ban the import of fruits and vegetables from Gaza, following the cholera outbreak there. In the past Gaza supplied about a fifth of the country's tomato consumption.

The first consignment of tomatoes from Jordan was due to arrive today, but according to Israel Radio, has been delayed because the price has doubled since the ministry first contacted the Jordanians.

October's rise brought the index to 117.2 points on a baseline averaging 100 in 1993, compared with 115.6 points in July.

Galit Lipkis Beck contributed to this report

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY



THE KAPLAN CHAIR IN THE HISTORY OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL

The public is invited to a lecture by the Egyptian writer

Samir Raafat

on

Maadi: An Egyptian Suburb
From its Jewish Entrepreneurs to its Israeli Residents

on Sunday, November 20, 6 p.m.

at the Malka Brender ("Kess Hamishpat") Hall
The Trubowicz Law Building, Tel Aviv University

Entrance through Ramneanu gate (4)



Klestil: No apology can expunge agony of Holocaust

DAN IZENBERG and BAT SHEVA TSUR

AUSTRIAN President Thomas Klestil fell short of an outright apology to the Jewish people for Nazi atrocities, but acknowledged in a carefully crafted speech to the Knesset that "many of the worst henchmen in the Nazi dictatorship were Austrians."

Holocaust survivor Dov Shilansky (Likud) did not applaud at the end of Klestil's speech, and

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

A tribute was paid to the memory of Meyer W. Weisgal on the 100th anniversary of his birth, at the festive opening session of the Weizmann Institute's Board of Governors Meeting yesterday. Other events included a ceremony marking the establishment by Gershon Kekst of the Kekst Family Foundation for Molecular Genetics; the presentation to Martha and Bram Laub of the key to the Martha, Bram, Michael and Philippe Laub Youth Village; and, in the evening, a dinner given by the president of the Weizmann Institute of Science and Mrs. Harari, in honor of the recipients of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, Honoris Causa, and members of the Board of Governors.

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place at 1:00 p.m. today, at the YMCA, King David St. Dr. Daniel Stein, psychologist, will address the club.

quickly walked out of the hall before the Austrian president's ceremonial departure.

Only about 40 MKs and a handful of ministers came to hear Klestil. The VIPs in the gallery included the Viennese-born former Jerusalem mayor, Teddy Kollek.

"We know full well that all too often we have only spoken of Austria as the first state to have lost its freedom and independence to National Socialism, and far too seldom of the fact that many of the worst henchmen in the Nazi dictatorship were Austrians," Klestil told the Knesset. "And no word of apology can ever expunge the agony of the Holocaust. On behalf of the Republic of Austria, I bow my head with deep respect and profound emotion in front of the victims."

Klestil rejected the idea that all Austrians were responsible for the Nazi regime and its deeds. "No people should be blamed with collective guilt," he said. "And no one knows that better than the Jewish people who have suffered more than any other from such sweeping allegations."

Continuing in the same vein, Klestil said anyone who wants to understand the past must face the "entire truth," but added that the truth was complex and that "a thin line" ran between perpetrators and victims.

"The thin line that ran between perpetrators and victims at that time ran right through the people, through their families, and often enough through one and the same heart. The seed of foment and the



Austrian President Thomas Klestil is greeted yesterday at the Knesset by President Ezer Weizman and Knesset Speaker Shimon Peres. (Isaac Harari)

tragic blend of force and fascination gave rise to the Jewish tragedy also in Austria."

Klestil referred to the subject of compensation for Austrian Jewish Holocaust victims but did not say whether his government would do anything about it.

"We know full well that for far too long we have not done enough, and not always the right thing, to alleviate the plight of the survivors of the Jewish tragedy and the victims' descendants," said Klestil. "And we know that for far too long we have neglected those Jewish Austrians who were forced to leave their native land, humiliated and embittered."

At a news conference earlier in the day, Klestil said the Austrian government has decided to set up a solidarity fund for victims of the Nazis.

"While I cannot make any promises, I hope that the parlia-

ment will decide to use this fund for needy individuals [of Austrian origin]," he added. The decision on the distribution of the monies is due to be taken next year, when the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II is marked.

Shilansky said he was sorry Klestil had not expressly asked for the forgiveness of the Jewish people, but added that "even a million apologies could not atone for Austrian collaboration with the Nazis. We must remember that Hitler and Eichmann came from Austria and the Austrians turned out in their masses to welcome Hitler with joy and festivity."

Klestil said that one of his strongest emotional experiences in Israel had been seeing the Valley of the Communities at Yad Vashem, where he saw the name Mattersdorf commemorating the dead and then visited the living community in Jerusalem's Kiryat Mattersdorf.

In reply to a question about the recent electoral gains of the extreme right Freedom Party - which took 22 percent of the votes - Klestil described this as "mostly a protest vote." He stressed that "only democratic parties" were represented in the Austrian parliament.

But Foreign Minister Alois Mock added that he, personally, would prefer to see even stiffer sentences being handed down for members of violent groups, including those at the extreme left. "A democracy must be strong enough to allow freedom but when it comes to violence it must be combated by the strongest laws possible," he said.

Mock added that Austria would host talks next month between members of the three great monotheistic faiths, including Moslem representatives from Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia. "In order to

fight fundamentalism, we must go back to the spiritual roots," he said.

Klestil added that during the intensive talks held between members of the Austrian government, parliament, scientific, cultural and business worlds and their Israeli counterparts, there had been very positive results.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Klestil's visit signified "a new era in our relations." He said Austria "no longer averts its eyes from the horrors of the past. Most, if not all of Austria, accepts its share of the historical responsibility for Nazi crimes."

Benjamin Netanyahu (Likud) said Israel had learned the lesson of the Holocaust by establishing an independent state. He said Austria must learn a lesson by fighting the new antisemitic groups that have sprouted on its soil.

Hearing delayed on sealing of terrorists' homes

EVELYN GORDON and ILM

A HEARING on whether the army can seal the houses of three terrorists involved in the kidnapping and murder of Cpl. Nahshon Wachman was postponed until next week yesterday, to give the petitioners' attorneys time to study the state's position.

The petitions, by Yassin Bader, Yusra Ya'amar and Taisir Abdul, argue that since all three of the terrorists were killed in the failed rescue attempt, sealing the houses would merely punish the families, who are innocent.

Speaking after yesterday's hearing, however, the parents made no attempt to dissociate themselves from their sons' actions.

The father of Hassan Taisir Natasha, one of the Hamas gunmen who killed Wachman, said his son had not murdered an "innocent person."

He emphasized that the home of Baruch Goldstein, who murdered 29 Palestinians, was not sealed or destroyed.

In response to the petition, the state argued that while it has for many years had a policy of not sealing the houses of dead terrorists, the recent wave of organized Hamas and Islamic Jihad terror has made it necessary to revise that policy. Since these groups often operate via suicide killers, who cannot themselves be punished, the only effective deterrent is for the killers to know that their families will suffer for their actions, the state said.

Much of the state's response was based on material presented at last week's hearing on a petition against destroying the house of the Tel Aviv bus bomber. The petitioners' attorneys therefore asked for time to study the material from this case, which is still pending.

Justices Gavriel Bach, Yitzhak Zamir and Zvi Tal acceded to this request. However, in deference to the state's request to finish the case as quickly as possible - since punishment only serves as an effective deterrent if it is swift - they said the hearing should be in the early part of next week at the latest.

Store owner shot during robbery

A jewelry store owner was shot and killed last night during an armed robbery in Kafr Kaboul in the Western Galilee.

The owner was preparing to close the store when three masked men entered and threatened him at gun-point to hand over his cash and the jewelry. When the jeweler refused, the robbers shot him several times in the chest. They then escaped without taking anything. Neighbors heard the shots and alerted police, who found the man dead.

THE AUSTRALIAN FRIENDS OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

deeply mourn, together with

Yehiel Ben-Zvi

Vice President of the University,
the passing of his beloved wife

YARDENA

and extend heartfelt condolences
to the entire family.

The Association of Friends of Tel Aviv University in Austria

would like to extend deepest sympathy to

Yehiel Ben-Zvi

Vice President of the University
on the passing of his dear wife

YARDENA

Dr. h.c. Hella Gertner, President
and the Members of the Board

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of our
dear mother, grandmother

KÄTHE CASPER

The funeral will take place today,
Wednesday, November 16, 1994 (13 Kislev 5755) at
2 p.m., at Savoyon Cemetery.

Mourners:
Daughter: Ora
Grandchildren: Elad and Silvia
Anat and David
Great-grandchildren and the family

In deep sorrow, we announce the peaceful passing of

JACK MILLER

In Toronto, on November 12, 1994.

Deeply mourned by:

Wife: Dora
Son: Yoel and Family, Toronto
Son: Ted and Family, Jerusalem
Daughter: Mira and Family, Toronto

Shiva on Thursday and Friday, at 4 Aliyat Hanoar, Ramot Beit, Jerusalem.

With deepest sorrow, we announce the passing of my dear husband,
our father and grandfather

MARTIN LIFLAND

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Thursday, November 17, 1994
(14 Kislev 5755) at 1:00 p.m., at Herzliya Cemetery.

A service will be held at 11:00 a.m., in the Martin Lifland Wing
of Assaf Harofeh Medical Center.

Wife: Selma Lifland, and Family

US expert: Hizbullah combat capabilities reach new level

DAVID RUDGE

HIZBULLAH combat capabilities have reached a "high level," a senior American military expert recently told a Lebanese newspaper.

Prof. Steven Pelletiere, from the US Army War College, was quoted in an interview with the Al-Hayat Arabic-language daily.

The paper said that Pelletiere's assessment was based on a personal tour of the region recently. He maintained in the article that the IDF's armored corps lacks proper training and discipline.

Pelletiere maintained that the only way to control Hizbullah was by speedy progress in the peace talks.

Meanwhile, Hizbullah gunmen killed in clashes with IDF and South Lebanese Army troops recently were buried yesterday.

Hizbullah officially announced that the two, Khalil Hamoud from Khirbat Salim village and Abed Amir Fadel from Onin village near Beirut, were killed in "Zionist attacks" in Jab' al Rafiah and Iklim al-Toufah regions.

Izzadin Kassam's grave desecrated

THE grave of Izzadin Kassam, the role model for Hamas's military wing, was found desecrated yesterday, and Jewish extremists claimed responsibility.

Police said the headstone of Kassam's grave was smashed and black graffiti on the cemetery walls read: "Death to the Arabs and followers of Izzadin Kassam."

Kassam is buried in a Moslem cemetery in Nesher, near Haifa.

Police officials in Haifa they had no suspects.

However, Israeli journalists said they received a message on their beepers in which the outlawed Jewish extremist group Kach took responsibility. The message, signed "Yossi," said the attack came in retaliation for the desecration of Jewish graves on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives.

The message also said Kach members would continue to desecrate Moslem graves and carry out acts of revenge against Moslems.

Kach spokesman Noam Federman said the group was not responsible, but that individual members may have desecrated Kassam's grave. "I cannot say I'm against it, and it's not a bad thing, but Kach as a group did not do this," Federman said.

Kassam fought against the British and the Jews during British Mandatory rule of Palestine. He was killed in 1935.

Hussein: Jordan should protect peace with Israel

AMMAN (Reuters) - King Hussein yesterday urged Jordanians to protect peace with Israel and said he would not allow any party opposed to peace to use Jordanian land to harm Israel.

He did not name any specific group, but some officials said he was implicitly referring to Hamas,

which has stepped up attacks against Israelis to show opposition to the PLO's accord with Israel.

The king, in a televised speech, said all Jordanians had to protect peace "and rise up to its requirements in letter and in spirit not permitting our lands to be in any way a springboard or an arena of action for any party opposed to peace."

Israel and the PLO have often pressed Jordan to curb the activities of Hamas, which has no legal presence in the kingdom but is close to the powerful Moslem Brotherhood Movement and enjoys sympathy among people disenchanted with the peace process.

Also yesterday, Jordan and Israel discussed arrangements for an Israeli withdrawal from territories captured from the kingdom 46 years ago and the removal of mines and other obstacles along their common border.

Maj. Gen. Tahsin Shurthum, who headed the Jordanian team to the session at a Dead Sea hotel, told state-run Jordan Radio that the talks will resume November 23.

Left-wing women MKs visit Orient House

DAN IZENBERG

FOUR left-wing women MKs visited Orient House yesterday to stress their insistence that the PLO's east Jerusalem headquarters continue to function as it has until now.

"The status quo regarding the Orient House must be maintained including the holding of diplomatic visits," Meretz MK Anat Ma'or said afterwards. "However, the activity must be measured, so as not to give fodder to Likud demands to close the building."

Last week, Likud MK Yeho-

shua Matza won approval in preliminary reading for a bill defining PLO activity on Israeli soil as criminal. Two days earlier, the government passed a bill in first reading granting it the discretionary right to close Palestinian Authority and PLO facilities and meetings inside Israel.

Three of the MKs - Ma'or, Ya'el Dayan and Naomi Chazan - attacked Matza's bill but refrained from criticizing the government bill. The fourth, Tamar Golan, voted against the bill.

Heavy rains across country

DAVID RUDGE

HEAVY rain and thunderstorms swept across most parts of the country yesterday, causing havoc on many roads and extensive traffic jams in the Tel Aviv area.

The wintry conditions are expected to continue today, with the possibility of hail in some locations and snow on Mount Hermon.

The meteorological service issued a warning on the possibility of flooding in low-lying areas, and said that the rain was likely to be accompanied by strong gusts of wind.

The wet and slippery conditions yesterday led to a spate of road accidents in many parts of the country, primarily as a result of drivers failing to maintain a safe distance from other vehicles, according to police.

There were no serious injuries reported as a result of the accidents, but police reiterated calls to motorists to take extra care in view of the wet roads.

The stormy weather is expected to die out by tomorrow and be replaced by partly cloudy conditions with a slight rise in temperatures.

HAIFA READERS

Senior staffers of The Jerusalem Post including President and Publisher Yehuda Levy, Executive Editor David Bar-Ilan, and Jerusalem Post reporters will be visiting Haifa today, Wednesday, November 16.

Readers and friends are invited to meet with them at 5:30 p.m. at the Haifa Town Hall, 14 Rehov Hassan Shukri, for a questions and answers session, in the presence of Mayor Amram Mitzna.

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A Kfar Blum girl watches the flow of the Jordan River, which was redirected to its original course yesterday with the opening of a new dam. (Flash 90)

New dam on Jordan River sends water to the Hula Valley

THE Jordan River resumed its historical course along the northern section yesterday after a simple ceremony in which the gates to a newly completed dam were opened. This part of the river just south of Kibbutz Kfar Blum was originally diverted into a canal to help drain the Hula Valley in the 1950s.

The redirection is part of the Hula Valley rehabilitation and development project being carried out by the Jewish National Fund in conjunction with the Water Commission, the Agriculture, Interior and Tourism ministries, the Government Tourism Development Company and the Israel Lands Administration.

LIAT COLLINS

JNF Hula project director Giora Shaham said the new dam facility will help control the quantity of water flow and contribute to flood prevention plans, although this is just a side benefit.

The dam, near the confluence of the Jordan's three tributaries, the Banyas, Hatzbani and Dan, creates a 3-4 meter waterfall, increasing the surge and power of the flow. The project is expected to improve the quality of the water reaching the Kinneret from the Jordan River, Shaham said. It should also improve the quality of the Hula

peatlands which became an environmental nuisance and adversely affected agriculture, despite the fact that the Hula was initially drained to create farmland and stop environmental hazards like malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

"It's a positive, symbolic act," said Yohanan Darom, the northern region director of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel, a group which was created to combat the Hula draining 40 years ago. "Now we must just make sure the development of the area where they are trying to fix a wrong does not cause any harm either."

Health Ministry allows in fruit, flowers from Gaza

JUDY SIEGEL

THE import of flowers and citrus fruit from Gaza has been resumed, a week after the entrance of all produce was suspended due to a cholera outbreak there. The Health Ministry, which announced a partial lifting of the ban yesterday, said citrus fruit - being high enough on trees and not liable to be contaminated with sewage - and flowers did not pose any health risks.

The ministry has intensified chlorination levels of Israeli drinking water and supervision of local farming to ensure that sewage water is not used for irrigation. No cholera has been found in Israeli drinking water, sewage or food, the ministry said.

In a meeting at the Erez checkpoint yesterday, officials of the ministry and of the Palestinian Authority discussed the outbreak. So far, 66 cases of cholera have been confirmed in Gaza, and another 1,000 people with symptoms have been checked. Seventeen people remain hospitalized in the local eye hospital, which has been set aside to treat cholera patients

in isolation. There was one fatality, a small boy.

The Palestinian public health officers said they have no need for additional medications and other supplies from Israel. The next meeting will be held at Erez on Tuesday.

The ministry reiterates that the public should wash all fruit and vegetables with soap and water, whatever the source.

Deputy Health Minister Nawaf Masalha said yesterday that the cholera epidemic in Gaza appeared to be on the wane, with only five new cases reported this week.

The Knesset debate which preceded Masalha's speech focused more on terrorism, the peace process and the ill of the Israeli agriculture sector than the cholera epidemic in Gaza.

Masalha pointed out that while the Israeli national health budget for 1995 will be about NIS 14.4 billion, only NIS 100 million is spent on health for the Palestinians of Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

Knesset subcommittee orders stricter supervision of wiretapping by GSS, army

EVELYN GORDON

WIRETAPPING by the army and the General Security Service will be more strictly supervised, according to amendments to the wiretapping law approved by a Knesset Law Committee subcommittee yesterday.

The subcommittee decided that the GSS should be required to report on all security-related wiretaps to a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

It also decided that security-related wiretaps on people who normally cannot be bugged - lawyers, doctors, psychologists and priests - which require a special permit from the prime minister, should also be reported to the attorney-general.

Finally, it said that wiretaps by the army or the GSS aimed at preventing security leaks should be performed only on specific target populations and for limited time periods, to minimize the invasion of privacy caused by wide-scale eavesdropping.

Yesterday's deliberations were part of a general overhaul of the wiretapping law proposed by the Justice Ministry. However, the

subcommittee's decisions impose tighter controls on security-related eavesdropping than the ministry had suggested.

In other news, the Supreme Court yesterday affirmed a judge's right to use recordings of a suspect's voice to determine his guilt.

The case involved the conviction on drug charges of Amos Cohen by the Jerusalem District Court. An undercover agent had recorded one transaction with Cohen in which he clearly identified himself: in another transaction, however, he had given a different name. Judge Zvi Cohen, on his own initiative, listened to both tapes with the aid of an equalizer, and determined that the voices were the same.

Justices Gavriel Bach, Theodor Orr and Tova Strasberg-Cohen rejected the defense's claim that there was anything wrong with this procedure.

It would have been preferable, the justices said, if the judge had informed the attorneys of his intention, but his failure to do so did not disqualify the procedure.

Shahal: Ukrainian gangs held 'conference' with Israeli criminals in Tel Aviv

UKRAINIAN gangs are cooperating with Israeli criminals and even held a joint "convention" in Tel Aviv, it was revealed yesterday at a press conference given by Police Minister Moshe Shahal and visiting Ukrainian Interior Minister Lt.-Gen. Vladimir Radchenko.

The two ministers also announced that the Ukrainian police will pass intelligence information on international terrorism to the Israel Police.

Shahal and Radchenko met yesterday in Jerusalem and discussed cooperation in fighting drugs, forgery of documents and currency, and in other fields. Shahal said a cooperation agreement between the two countries' police forces had been signed during Shahal's visit to Ukraine several months ago. He said such cooperation was vital in fighting drugs, international crime and international terrorism, but refused to detail what this would entail.

Shahal said Ukraine is a transit point between the former Soviet republics and Western Europe, and is the site of attempts to smuggle weapons, including parts used to make nuclear weapons.

Radchenko said the increasing ties between the two countries required cooperation between their police forces, including the establishment of a joint "information bank." He said Ukrainian counterfeiters were turning out documents and currency, and that some of the documents show up here. He said the Ukrainian police would turn over examples of such documents to their Israeli counterparts.

At the conclusion of the press conference, Shahal presented Radchenko with an Israeli-made Jericho pistol. (Itm)

Academic staff lend their voices to immigrant scientists' protest

SENIOR academic staff at the country's institutes of higher learning yesterday braved heavy rains to join a demonstration of immigrant scientists from the CIS who may lose their jobs.

Some 800 top-notch scientists are likely to find themselves unemployed when Absorption Ministry grants come to an end, and the first 150 are already unemployed, spokesmen for the Zionist Forum and the Public Council for Soviet Jewry said.

They urged the government to accept a plan drawn up by Tel Aviv University Chemistry professor Eliezer Gileadi for the absorption of 500 outstanding scientists at universities and

BATSHEVA TSUR

research institutes.

Gileadi, who urged greater enthusiasm on the part of the government for the plan, said no budget had been allocated for it, but it was still not too late as the plan was due to come up for discussion at the Treasury later this month. He estimated that it would cost some \$13 million to absorb the scientists, much of which would be saved if they did not receive unemployment compensation.

"This is not a philanthropic plan," he said, "the scientists are prepared to accept poorer work conditions, but they will be rais-

ing the standard of new generations of scientists and giving hope to prospective immigrant scientists."

"If we fail to absorb these scientists, we will convey a message of hopelessness and helplessness to the rest of the immigrants, who have always looked to them as the most likely to succeed," said psychophysiologist Dr. Vadim Rutenberg, himself an immigrant scientist recently named Man of the Year by the Cambridge International Biographical Center.

Absorption Minister Yair Tzaaban earlier met with the scientists and expressed his support for the plan.

Laniado Hospital to declare bankruptcy, close emergency room, reopen as private institution

JUDY SIEGEL

LANIADO Hospital in Netanya intends to declare bankruptcy and re-establish itself as a private hospital without an emergency room.

This drastic measure must be taken because the Netanya Municipality has halted all assistance and Laniado is NIS 30 million in debt, hospital medical director Dr. Avinoam Skolnick said yesterday.

Skolnick said the 170-bed hospital, which is a voluntary public institution, owned by a charitable organization, is no longer receiving supplies and services from contractors. At the beginning of this year, the municipality stopped giving the hospital NIS 5 million in annual aid to keep its emergency room open. Without it, patients needing emergency medical care would have to rush to Hillel Yoffe Hospital in Hadera, or another city.

Ministry spokeswoman Yifat Ben-Hai said yesterday that Health Minister Ephraim Sneh is personally looking into the hospital's problems. The Finance Minister will "allocate the relative

amount that the two ministries feel Laniado deserves for covering salaries," she said, adding that the money should be approved within eight days. "In any case, according to the operating license Laniado has, it is not permitted to close its emergency room under any circumstances."

Skolnick denied this, saying: "We can easily declare bankruptcy and close our emergency room. Then we can reorganize and request a new license from the ministry as a private hospital. Several years ago, the Herzliya Medical Center went to the High Court of Justice over the ministry's refusal to get a private-hospital license, and HMC won. This is a precedent that the ministry cannot overturn."

The Laniado director blamed the ministry as well as the Netanya Municipality for the hospital's growing deficit. "The municipality said it lacked money, but it continues to subsidize sports, educational and cultural institutions. We

were the only one to have our subsidy cancelled."

A Netanya Municipality spokesman said last night that "it's not our job to maintain and finance the hospital. That's the government's job. However, because of the hospital's great importance to the city, Mayor Zvi Poleg ordered the transfer of a NIS 1 million to the hospital during the past year."

Meanwhile, Kupat Holim Clalit announced yesterday that it will receive an extra NIS 100 million annually in government aid over the next three years to improve the infrastructure and renew medical equipment in its hospitals.

The health fund said that the Health Ministry has also agreed to give Josephthal Hospital in Eilat NIS 6.6 million per year, through 1997, to ensure that the Clalit hospital has a balanced budget.

Clalit director-general Avigdor Kaplan said yesterday that the increased aid will make possible major improvements in service in the health fund's hospitals.

High Court orders gov't to explain why surrogate motherhood should not be legalized

EVELYN GORDON

THE High Court of Justice yesterday gave the government 45 days to explain why surrogate motherhood should not be legal in Israel.

It was responding to a petition by 25 couples who cannot have children on their own, and are interested in employing a surrogate.

Attorney Amnon Ben-Dror, representing the petitioners, argued that the 1987 Health Ministry regulation forbidding surrogacy is illegal, because only the Knesset can enact such a rule.

However, he said, the regulation would be wrong even if passed by the Knesset, because it

discriminates between rich and poor. The rich, he said, can always have the operation in the US.

In response, the state said the Health and Justice Ministries were working on new regulations to deal with the issue, and asked the court to postpone hearing the petition until they had finished.

However, Justices Aharon Barak, Dalia Dorner and Theodor Orr rejected this request. Each of the petitioners has a "biological clock" ticking away, they said. If the case drags on too long, some

of them could be infertile by then.

Ben-Dror said the two ministries have been promising to revise the regulations for the past four years. However, an interministerial advisory committee published its recommendations on the subject only a few months ago.

Judy Siegel adds: Health Minister Ephraim Sneh has instructed his staff to speed up preparations for setting regulations allowing surrogate parenthood here. He said these preparations began even before the High Court of Justice started discussing the matter.

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Soldiers examine the remains of a car that was totally destroyed yesterday when a firebomb was thrown at it near Abu Dis, injuring two Israelis on their way to Ma'alch Adumim. The two suffered slight burns, with one of them treated on the spot and the other taken to the hospital for treatment. The army launched a search for the attackers. (Khaled Zighan)

Law would remove Azran from post

COALITION and opposition MKs yesterday sought to defuse a political crisis over renegade Shas MK Yosef Azran's continued tenure as deputy Speaker by proposing legislation automatically recognizing him as a one-man faction.

MKS Ovadia Eli (Likud) and Ran Cohen and Avraham Poraz (Meretz) raised the proposal after it became clear Shas would not budge from its refusal to consider a compromise resolution of its feud with Azran.

Shas is insisting that Azran, who has severed his ties with Shas but still officially belongs to the faction, step down from his deputy Speaker position so it can appoint someone in his place. Last week, it rejected out of hand Azran's offer of a deal whereby he would quit the post in return for Shas's agreement to support his bid for recognition as a one-man Knesset faction, with all the inherent rights.

DAN IZENBERG

According to the current law, Azran needs a majority in the House Committee to gain recognition as a one-man faction. Given Shas's implacable opposition to such a move, it is out of the question. The proposal of the three MKs would outflank Shas by eliminating the need for House Committee approval. In return for passage of the bill, Azran would agree to leave the deputy Speaker post, said Eli.

Yesterday, the committee began its discussion of a request by Shas to change the House Rules so that Azran might be deposed. According to the current law, the Speaker and his deputies are appointed for the full term of each parliament.

The meeting turned stormy yesterday when Speaker Shevah Weiss declared that Knesset representation was based on factions, and

therefore Shas was justified in its demand that Azran be replaced. Weiss added that the Shas amendment should be expanded to include the possible deposition of the Speaker as well as his deputies.

Michael Eitan (Likud) blasted Weiss, accusing him of acting like a politician even though his position demanded of him to be above politics.

"This could have been your finest hour," Eitan shouted at Weiss.

It seemed clear from yesterday's meeting that several coalition MKs oppose the idea of changing the House Rules to accommodate Shas's demand, even though it has become clear in the meantime that Shas takes the matter seriously. Shas faction chairman Shlomo Benizri said his party wanted Azran to resign from the Knesset and return his mandate to the party.

Labor-Shas soap opera keeps on going

THE ongoing saga between the Labor Party and Shas deserves to be written up some day as a classic study in sado-masochistic relationships. There is no doubt as to which party plays what role in this soap opera in installments.

The latest episode in this unending summation of courtship is a small but poignant one — the fate of renegade deputy Speaker Yosef Azran. Azran, whose speeches in committee and stewardship of the plenum are laced with soft-spoken humor and halachic homily, is one of the most popular MKs in the Knesset.

Shas is demanding that Azran be replaced as deputy Knesset Speaker, a move requiring a change in the Knesset House Rules. Last week, faction chairman Shlomo Benizri warned that Shas would feel free to vote against the coalition any time it deemed fit, if Labor did not back its demand. The faction was demonstrating more than concern for the poor when it joined the opposition for the first time on Monday

to express no confidence in the government over the poverty issue.

Shas makes no bones about why it wants Azran out. Azran, as Benizri makes clear, dared to insult the party's spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

In all fairness to Shas, it should be remembered that vindictiveness is not the monopoly of any single party. Tsomet Party leader Rafael Eitan was just as determined as Yosef is now to depose Esther Salmovitz from her post as Deputy Speaker after she joined Yit'ud. He desisted only after swallowing the bitter fact that he did not have a majority to change the law.

However, the current impasse over Azran is the last in a long list of Shas ultimative or semi-ultimative demands. Not all of them have been over matters

of principle. Nevertheless, Labor swallows it all. Last week, party faction chairman Eli Dayan issued a strong statement in support of Shas's demand regarding Azran. In private, he rumbled loudly over House Committee chairman Hagga Meron's pronounced reluctance to go along with Shas.

Among Dayan's many functions as faction chairman, he serves as a liaison between Yosef and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. When the two leaders aren't meeting secretly in the rabbi's home after midnight, Yosef passes along his demands to Aryeh Deri, who passes them on to Dayan, who passes them on to Rabin. It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it. Dayan also knows he has the prime minister's backing for this service.

Rabin may grit his teeth at Yosef's incessant demands, but he is as ready to go along with Shas today as he has ever been — all for the sake of a Jewish parliamentary majority he has failed to achieve.

Meanwhile, Labor MKs shrug their shoulders, smile sheepishly and go along with Rabin. Rafi Elul refused to attend yesterday's meeting on Azran's fate for fear he would have to vote against his friend and neighbor. He says he has often felt humiliated by Shas and that there is a red line beyond which Labor should not go. But Labor owes Shas a debt of gratitude for its stand on the peace process, he quickly adds.

Yael Dayan says she will fight Shas when it comes to matters of principle such as Shas's rejection of the equality clause in the proposed human rights bill. But on technical and procedural matters — such as Azran's fate, she is willing to replace Elul — or any other balking Labor MK — and vote to oust Azran.

High Court gives reasons for not freeing Deri's lawyers from case

THERE is no such thing as a limited power of attorney in a criminal trial unless the court approves it in advance, the High Court of Justice said yesterday in a split decision.

It was ruling on petitions by Dan Avidan and Amnon Zichroni, lawyers for former interior minister Aryeh Deri. While the court had rejected the lawyers' request to be freed of Deri's case in August, the reasons for the decision were published yesterday.

Justices Ya'akov Kedmi and Dov Levine, with Mishael Cheshin dissenting, based their ruling on a section of the criminal code which states: "The attorney hired by the defendant shall not cease to represent him as long as the trial or appeal for which he was hired continues, except with the court's permission."

EVELYN GORDON

This law, meant to give the court the power to ensure that the accused has the ability to defend himself throughout his trial, supersedes the normal right of two people to enter into a limited contractual agreement, Kedmi said. And even if the "cessation" in the lawyer's services occurs because of a limited power of attorney, it still interferes with this ability, and therefore needs the court's approval.

However, he said, contractual freedom is preserved by the fact that the lawyer can refuse to take the case to begin with.

Cheshin, in his dissenting opinion, argued that "complete autonomy of the contracting parties" was a fundamental principle,

which could be superseded only by grave damage to another interest. However, he said, it is hard to see how the defendant's interests could be damaged by a limited power of attorney to which he himself agreed.

Such an agreement also does not hurt the court's interest in a speedy and efficient trial, he said, because a limited power of attorney is known to the court from the start, so it can take appropriate measures.

However, he concluded, the attorneys were at fault for waiting eight months before objecting to the pace of the trial. Because of this, it would be reasonable to force them to stick to their job for another four months, while Deri looks for another lawyer.

'Shas's days on political fence will end on 24th'

SARAH HONG

SHAS will actively join the opposition if the High Court rules against its deal with the Labor Party to pass legislation to circumvent the courts on religious issues, Shas leader Aryeh Deri warned yesterday.

"Shas's days on the political fence, where it is not against the coalition and not quite with it, will be over on the 24th. We will either be firmly in or resolutely out of the coalition," said Deri.

The High Court is due to rule next Thursday on several motions against the deal between Labor and Shas, in which Labor promised Shas legislation to circumvent court rulings which Shas deems to be in violation of the status quo on religious affairs.

Meanwhile, Shas is hedging all bets and preparing for either eventuality, it is noted in the party. This, say Shas insiders, explains the party's decision Monday to vote against the government on the poverty issue and not join the no-confidence motion on the security issue.

If Shas re-enters the coalition, the issue of security and the territories will be the thorniest for it, as its electorate is considered to be right-of-center and even militant.

Should Shas return to the coalition, it needs to prepare its public and argue that the security situation is not as bad as it seems and that joining the government is not tantamount to betrayal of the platform on which Shas courted the right-wing voters in the last elections.

Asian countries set deadline for free trade

JAKARTA (AP) — Pacific rim nations passed an important milestone yesterday by setting a deadline to lift trade barriers within 25 years.

A declaration by the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum on achieving free and open trade and investment came at the end of a summit of the 18-member group.

"The pace of implementation will take into account the differing levels of economic development among APEC economies," it said. Developed countries are to lift trade barriers by 2010 and all others by 2020.

Only five would have to comply with the earlier date: the United States, Japan, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Allowing for the distant deadline and APEC's sheer size and diversity, the plan could turn the Pacific basin into the most open trading area in the world.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who boycotted last year's summit in Seattle, was present yesterday. But his coun-

try, long wary of efforts to institutionalize the forum, issued a list of reservations.

"Malaysia will only commit to undertaking further liberalization on a unilateral basis at a pace and capacity commensurate with our level of development," said one.

Other leaders were more upbeat.

"We have set a course for the future," said President Suharto of Indonesia, who chaired the summit and urged adoption of a timetable.

"The significance of this commitment is enormous. It is stronger than that made by parties to the GATT or by G-7 countries," Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating said. The G-7 groups the United States, Japan, Britain, Germany, France, Italy, and Canada.

Sir Hamish Macleod, Hong Kong's financial secretary, said, "It is a giant step to agree clearly to achieve free trade by a certain date. That is a major achievement."

But he also acknowledged the declaration had loopholes. "It's not a crystal clear bit of drafting," Macleod added.

Written in the broadest possible terms, the Declaration of Common Resolve accommodates both ardent free traders and lukewarm supporters of the idea in the diverse group.

In painting a broad picture, the 11-point declaration said Cabinet ministers and others would fill in the details.

"We direct our ministers and officials to immediately begin preparing detailed proposals for implementing our present decisions. Such proposals should also address all impediments to achieving our goal," the declaration added.

APEC groups the six Association of Southeast Asian Nations members — Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines — plus the United States, Japan, China, Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Canada, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Moslems battle for Bihac

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — The Moslem-led Bosnian government army is putting up a stiff fight against Serb forces advancing on the Bihac enclave in the northwest, the United Nations said yesterday.

Reports that Serb forces had driven the government's Fifth Corps back and taken full control of the strategic Grabez plateau, which overlooks Bihac, had proved to be untrue, a UN military spokesman said.

"We reported yesterday that that we thought the Bosnian Serb army were in possession of the Grabez plateau. That is not in fact the case, there is heavy fighting going on for that feature," said spokesman Colonel Tim Spicer.

Artillery, mortar and tank fire were reported all day on Monday.

"The Fifth Corps is believed to be putting up strong resistance in the area," Spicer said.

The Fifth Corps took the Bosnian Serb army by surprise two weeks ago when it launched an attack that captured 250 square km (95 square miles) of territory. The Serbs have since recovered much of the lost ground.

Spicer added: "The BiH (Bosnian government army) is not running away although the BSA (Bosnian Serb army) advance has been rapid. The BiH withdrawal is not a rout. There are indications there is intense fighting going on, which would not indicate a collapsed front."

The UN said Serbs from the breakaway Krajina region of neighboring Croatia were shelling the

Moslems in support of their fellow Serbs in Bosnia, but there was no indication that Krajina ground troops had entered Bosnia.

However, the United Nations said Bosnian Serb troops had been allowed to move through Serb-held areas of Croatia and this was a matter of concern.

The United Nations said there was a looming humanitarian crisis for thousands of civilians in the Bihac pocket because the Serbs were continuing to refuse access to aid convoys.

"Overall, the situation, while not critical, is very difficult and could become critical by the end of the month, perhaps mid-December, if the pocket remains closed to convoys," said Kris Janowski, a UN spokesman.

More than 60 dead in Philippine quake

CALAPAN (Reuters) — Children's bodies were found hanging in trees yesterday after an earthquake and tidal waves ravaged the central Philippines island of Mindoro, killing more than 60 people, rescuers said.

More than 130 were injured when the quake struck at around 3 a.m. triggering panic, cutting off power and water supplies and splitting open the base of a mountain in the tourist resort of Puerto Galera.

Many of the dead were children aged between one and six who drowned when their homes were hit by waves up to 15 meters high spawned by the quake.

When dawn broke, rescuers found the bodies of drowned children hanging in trees in the Malaya area of Baco, the hardest hit town, villagers told reporters.

Baco is about 10 km from Calapan, the capital of Oriental Mindoro province.

Television showed film of a

mother grieving over three small children who had drowned. Her fourth child survived.

Mindoro island is 140 km south of Manila.

"The earthquake was accompanied by a roar," Oriental Mindoro governor Rod Valencia said by telephone. "Then the waves came, as high as 10 to 15 metres. The furniture in my house was dancing and then fell over."

"People ran out to the streets and many of them were crying."

The quake measured seven on the Richter scale, according to government seismologists who revised earlier estimates. The US earthquake center in Golden, Colorado put it at 7.1.

Forty-nine people died, mostly from drowning, in Oriental Mindoro, social worker Amelia Sarmiento said. Two others died on Isla Verde island off Mindoro, and one was killed in Occidental Mindoro, the other province on the island.

Parliament reelects Helmut Kohl

BONN (Reuters) — The German parliament reelected Helmut Kohl as chancellor with only one vote to spare yesterday, leaving him in power with a thin but working majority for the next four years.

The chancellor, whose center-right coalition won by a narrow margin at a general election last month, clenched his hands over his head like a champion boxer after winning 338 votes in the 672-seat chamber.

He needed at least 337 votes — the absolute majority of all deputies in parliament — to win in the first round of voting. His coalition, in power since 1982, has 341 seats.

Voting could have gone into three rounds if Kohl fell short the first time around, but that would have been an embarrassing blow to a government already weakened by its losses in the October 16 election.

"Madam Speaker, I accept the vote," Kohl, 64, said to a standing ovation from deputies of his coalition.

"I didn't expect all the votes from the coalition," the relieved Christian Democrat (CDU) chancellor later said in the lobby of the parliament building along the Rhine River.

"It was the result I expected more or less," said Kohl, adding he wanted to spend his last four years in office promoting German and European unity.

Rudolf Scharping, leader of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD), said he had also expected Kohl to win the long-awaited vote.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Aloni leaves for Far East today
Communications and Science Minister Shulamit Aloni leaves today for visits to South Korea, China and India. It will be the first visit by an Israeli minister to South Korea.

The ministry said Aloni will sign an agreement with the science minister of South Korea for scientific cooperation between the two countries. In China, she will sign an accord promoting activity by Israeli telecommunications companies in the development of local infrastructure.

In India, the minister will sign an accord to promote ties in the field of telecommunications.

Plans to fight unemployment
The Ministry of Industry and Trade's Investment Center okayed eight plans for NIS 47 million in economic projects in Mitzpe Ramon which will provide employment for 249 people, Minister Micha Harish announced yesterday.

Harish, on a tour of the region, said two other projects worth over NIS 4.3m. would be expanded, providing work for 55 people. The development budget for local infrastructure this year is approximately NIS 1m. *Amir Rozenblit*

Winning cards
In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, jack of hearts, nine of diamonds, and ace of clubs.

Winning numbers
In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 2, 14, 16, 19, 43, 47 and the additional number was 46.

'Red Sea Riviera': Regional tourism potential at its best

WATCH out, Portofino and St. Tropez. Here comes the "Red Sea Riviera."

There are differences, of course. Here on Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, the landscape is mostly desert, security checkpoints abound, and beaches are marked with signs prohibiting topless sunbathing. "In accordance with Egyptian law."

But as peace spreads across the Middle East, Egypt, Jordan and Israel are sharing proposals to tap the vast tourism potential of their common coast, a snorkeler's paradise where tropical reefs swarm with some of the world's most dazzling varieties of fish.

More than just a clever marketing gimmick, the still-evolving blueprint embraces transportation links, international marinas, joint protection of natural areas - even a proposal for cross-border windsurfing.

"We are talking about making it one agglomeration, to establish complementary activities," said Adel Rady, technical director for

Egypt's Tourist Development Authority. "None of this would have been possible unless there was a peaceful environment."

But some fear the boom could be ephemeral.

Despite the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan - Israel and Egypt made peace in 1979 - terrorism and political instability continue to cast long shadows on the region, causing jitters in a tourism industry notoriously sensitive to both.

EVEN MORE ominous, perhaps, are growing environmental threats to the delicate living reef. With financial help from the European Union, Egypt has embarked on a race against time, establishing parks and protected coastal zones in a rare attempt to balance preservation with the pressing economic needs of a Third World country.

"If the government doesn't move fast, this will all die here," said Annatina Pinosch, manager of the Movenpick Hotel in Sharm

el Sheikh's Naama Bay, where the number of hotels has tripled in the last four years. "The corals we are selling in Europe - this will go."

Not long ago, an integrated tourist zone linking the Red Sea coasts of Egypt, Jordan and Israel would have been unthinkable.

Israel withdrew its forces from Sinai in 1982 but only in the last few months have Israel and Jordan been able to open their border crossing - first to foreigners and now to Israelis.

Now tourism promoters on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide have begun laying the groundwork for regional cooperation. Proposals include joint efforts to map and protect the Red Sea reefs, provisions for "windsurfing across borders," a tourist promenade linking Aqaba and Eilat, and totally hassle-free border crossings. There is a talk of a Jordanian-Israeli "marine peace park."

JOHN LANCASTER
SHARM EL SHEIKH

The tourist boom is underway in the southern Sinai, an austere beautiful juxtaposition of mountains and sea where Bedouin herdsman still cut lonely figures across other desert sands. European tourists are flocking to resorts such as Naama Bay, whose palm-fringed beach is lined with modern hotels, outdoor bars and pizzerias.

HOTELS REPORT year-round occupancy rates of 80 percent, and the number of hotel beds in the area is expected to top 12,000 by the end of 1995, up from just 1,000 in 1988.

So far, the Sinai has had none of the attacks on foreign visitors by Moslem extremists that have badly hurt business at other tourist destinations in Egypt. But hotel executives are worried about security on the peninsula, especially since the killing in September of a

German tourist in the Red Sea resort of Hurghada, on the Gulf of Suez opposite the Sinai's west coast.

The biggest long-term threat to the Red Sea Riviera of tourist promoters' dreams may be environmental degradation - the result of rapid growth combined with inadequate facilities and services.

Trash collection is one of the worst deficiencies, reflected in heaps of construction debris and refuse that dot the desert around Naama Bay. Wind carries plastic bottles and other trash into the sea, where it sinks to the reef and causes abrasion to delicate coral heads, exposing the living organism to disease, according to Michael Pearson, a Canadian consultant who manages Egypt's conservation program in southern Sinai.

In Sharm el Sheikh harbor, the beach reeks of diesel fuel, which is

frequently spilled from dockside filling stations.

The diving industry also takes its toll. Divers and snorkelers ignore prominently posted warnings not to touch or stand on the coral. Dive boats routinely flush their sewage tanks at sea, and dive boat crews dump their trash over the side, fouling the Naama Bay beach, hotel executives say.

THE LOCAL sea police, who are supposed to enforce rules barring such activities, "just laugh at us" when violations are reported, according to one hotelier in Naama Bay.

But the future is not all bleak. Armed with a \$3 million grant from the European Union, Egypt has protected large areas of the Sinai peninsula from development, including the 80-square-mile Ras Muhammad National Park at the southern tip of Sinai.

Egypt also has tried to protect the coral reef, banning the use of anchors and other harmful practices, and has imposed strict con-

trols on new construction along the coast. Sewage discharges are prohibited, and beachfront hotels are required to take steps to protect the reef from damage by snorkelers, such as education programs and floating jetties that eliminate a need to walk across the coral. Trash collection for the area recently was turned over to a single private contractor.

The active involvement of developers in the conservation of the Sinai coast has begun to attract interest from environmental scientists, who see the region as a potential model for managing growth in other environmentally sensitive areas.

Driving through Ras Muhammad recently, Pearson parked on a bluff overlooking a broad, deserted beach and permitted himself a small moment of satisfaction.

"It's one of the best beaches on the Gulf of Aqaba, and it won't ever have hotels on it," he said. "Isn't it wonderful?"

(Washington Post)

Woman is face of opposition

PAUL TAYLOR
AUVERS-SUR-OISE

AFTER 15 years of iron rule by Moslem fundamentalists in turbans, do 65 million Iranians want to be governed by a 41-year-old female metallurgy graduate in a purple headscarf? That was the gamble the Mujahideen opposition movement took when it chose Maryam Rajavi, soft-spoken third wife of its historic leader Massoud Rajavi, as "future president of Iran" and sent her to France to present a smiling new face to the world.

"The sharp edge of the mullahs' sword is directed at Iranian women. Misogyny is the underpinning of the mullahs' regime. So it is only natural that women have an equal, leading role in the resistance," she said in a rare interview earlier this month.

Maryam Rajavi has lived for a year under round-the-clock French police guard in the village of Auvers-sur-Oise, where the impressionist master Vincent van Gogh painted and is buried.

Her sole public appearance was at a Paris benefit concert by exiled Iranian musicians in July.

Her husband, forced to leave France in 1986, has stayed in Iraq, where he heads a National Liberation Army that recently conducted live-fire exercises near the Iranian border.

Under the movement's strategy, the force equipped with British-made Chieftain tanks would engage Iran's Revolutionary Guards, the government's most loyal security force, while a popu-

lar uprising fomented by a Mujahideen network spread.

But therein lies the question. While diplomats and visitors to Iran are convinced the Islamic government is deeply unpopular, not least because of high prices and poverty, they see little evidence that people are turning to the Mujahideen.

Originally Islamic leftists, the Mujahideen played an important role in the 1979 revolution that overthrew the Shah but soon broke with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and were suppressed in a ruthless clampdown that began in 1981.

The Tehran government brands them "Monafiqin" (hypocrites) and accuses them of terrorism. Maryam Rajavi said the movement had suffered 100,000 dead and many more jailed and tortured.

US Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau told a House of Representatives hearing this month: "Their primary base of operations today is in Iraq, with the support, sponsorship and umbrella protection of [President] Saddam Hussein."

"We do not feel that with that background, they have a very wide base of support in Iran."

French officials privately share that assessment.

While they have given asylum to Rajavi and more than 100 staff, they insist she keep a low profile. (Reuters)

Ready for belt-tightening

RIYADH (AP) - King Fahd, apparently preparing his people for belt-tightening, has referred to the high costs of deploying troops to counter the ongoing threat from Saddam Hussein.

In a speech televised last week, the king did not specify how the costs would be met, but the Saudis are expected to shoulder some of the financial burden of October's US-led deployment of troops to counter the recent Iraqi threat.

"We have been afflicted by a peril of the devil," Fahd said in his address to military commanders at Hafir al-Batin, the huge military base near the Iraqi border.

"If the state bears tremendous amounts of expenditure, that is our duty and we cannot let down our neighbors."

The value of the national currency, the riyal, slipped on Gulf financial markets in reaction to Fahd's words. Dealers said they saw his remarks a confirmation of fresh cutbacks for the kingdom.

Since the 1990-91 Gulf crisis, the Saudi government has been doubly squeezed.

Desert Shield and Desert Storm cost the kingdom \$60 billion, while income has been lower than expected because of anemic oil prices.

Saudi Arabia had to cut its budget by nearly 20 percent this year. Although life for Saudi citizens remains comfortable by world standards, cuts in government spending have an impact on almost everyone in an economy

dominated by the state-run oil industry.

The troop deployments by the United States and its allies and the ongoing state of readiness are estimated to have cost between \$500 million and \$1 billion a month, even after the Iraqis retreated.

When he toured the region, Clinton urged US Gulf allies to bear their part of the cost. The Saudis are expected to put up 20 percent of the funds needed.

US Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen was in the kingdom in early October, when he suggested that the government continue to rein in spending and increase the pace of privatization.

Bentsen also suggested cutting government subsidies on basic goods and services, which are a major benefit for Saudi citizens.

The finance and economy ministers of 47 Islamic countries, members of the Islamic Development Bank, are meeting today to augment cooperation.

The ministers form the board of governors of the Jidda-based bank. They will review its past and formulate future plans.

Turkmenistan, which became independent after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, will become the bank's 48th member.

The bank, which started operations in 1976, has provided close to \$15 billion to its member states in the form of interest-free loans, technical assistance and grants.

The IDB conducts all its operations according to Islamic Sharia.



A Damascus billboard bearing the likenesses of President Hafez Assad and his late son, Bassel, reflects the long road Syria has to go before it can free its economy from the strict, dictatorial controls that have scared away foreign investment. (AP)

Business in Syria only for the hardy

JONATHAN WRIGHT
DAMASCUS

A glance through Syria's official gazette, the weekly account of new laws and ministerial decrees, is enough to frighten all but the hardiest of businessmen, Syrian or foreign.

Here they will find all the latest details of price controls, minimum wages, state import quotas, fixed producer prices for crops, annual targets for state enterprises and all the other paraphernalia of a classic command economy.

The US Embassy's annual country commercial guide for American businessmen is equally forbidding.

"Most foreign firms find Syria's business environment a difficult one in which to work," it kicks off.

It gives five good reasons why investors, even those in the potentially profitable oil sector, might think twice before choosing Syria as the place to spend their money.

Some foreign companies must use the official exchange rate of 11.2 pounds to the dollar, not the tourist rate of 42, in all transactions with Syrian companies and individuals. This makes local costs four times what they might be.

Economy Minister Mohammed Imadi has however said the country is moving toward one exchange rate, abolishing the 11.2 rate.

Foreign companies need to keep close track of everything they import, even spark plugs and paint cans, to save themselves from falling foul of the customs

authorities, the embassy's commercial guide says.

Add the iron monopoly over retail banking wielded by the state-owned Commercial Bank of Syria, and it comes as no surprise that the number of foreign oil companies operating in Syria has fallen from 11 in 1990 to four by the middle of this year.

The private sector, which never faded away entirely, has peeked its head above the ramparts and is even thriving in many sectors, but economists say Syria has a long way to go before it breaks free of its socialist and dictatorial chains.

"They talk about changing in an evolutionary way, the way they conduct the economy. But I think there is quite a lot to be done in terms of a more market economy before you get as much interest as they would like [from investors]," British Foreign Office minister Douglas Hogg said last week.

Unlike many Arab states that took the socialist path in the 1960s, President Hafez Assad's Syria has enthusiasm for the rhetoric of privatization, competition and the market economy.

"They have loosened the reins on the private sector, but their grip is still very tight," one economist said.

The Syrian government says

that one of the most vaunted reforms, Investment Law 10 of 1991, has already brought in \$3 billion, mostly from Syrians living abroad.

But the commonest form of "investment" is in private cars masquerading as transport company vehicles, businessmen say. Others have invested in the food and textile industries.

Against this inauspicious background, the economy appears to be booming, with strong and steady growth of between 7 and 11 percent a year since the Gulf war.

Good harvests, a steady rise in oil production and a brief inflow of aid funds from the Gulf have been the main factors behind this rise in gross domestic product.

Whether Syria can sustain such rates is linked to progress in economic reform and to the size of the "peace dividend" Syria can expect if it reaches an agreement with Israel.

Rateb Shallah, a businessman close to government as president of the Union of Syrian Chambers of Commerce, says the government is moving in the right direction: the private sector only wishes the changes would come faster.

The government, which fears social upheaval through economic reform, is protecting consumers from excessive price rises and re-

taining control over "strategic" sectors, he says.

"A flourishing public sector provides an important social safety valve," Shallah added.

But other businessmen, fearing to be named, said the public sector stands in the way because it retains privileged access to cheap credit and foreign exchange.

Another obstacle to fair business practices is the number of wealthy and well-connected families who dominate certain sectors of the economy, they added.

"Dealing with the public sector is incredibly difficult. Then there are the established private companies, which have ways to protect their patches," said an investor.

The picture need not be all gloom. If peace were to come and expatriate Syrians with business experience were free to return, the country could develop rapidly, diplomats said.

"Syria has things to export and will have a low-wage economy for years to come, so it could be a regional manufacturing base," one diplomat said. "On the other hand, corruption, vested interests and lack of decision-making could thwart all that."

(Reuters)

Mush minus blush - Kuwait tunes in to romance

WILLIAM MACLEAN
KUWAIT

BAD Boy wants forgiveness from Nabeela. Ahmad wishes Cupcake a happy anniversary. Secret Admirer would like Badriya to know, he cares.

A new English-language radio station is taking Kuwait's lovesick youth by storm with a show on which sweethearts dedicate songs and call to discuss hot topics like arranged marriage.

The 2½-hour Monday evening *Loveline* is a bold step for this conservative society where many marriages are arranged and unsupervised contact between unrelated boys and girls is rare.

The show may also be heard in many Gulf states, including ultra-conservative Saudi Arabia, and regularly takes calls and dedications from listeners in these neighboring countries.

Kuwaiti youngsters who once relied on stealth to communicate with sweethearts now simply call the state-owned Superstation on FM 99.7 and dedicate a song.

The *Loveline* can bare their souls about the cruelty of separation or parental intolerance to sympathetic, American-accented presenter Talal Yagout.

The station as a whole, with its round-the-clock diet of Western pop, reggae and rap and its English-language policy for both deejays and callers, reminds Kuwaitis educated in the West of freer, more carefree times when they were studying out of reach of strict parents and nosy siblings.

Calls come in from as far away as the US and Europe during a number of programs the station broadcasts internationally for Kuwaitis studying overseas.

The station's target market is 17- to 30-year-olds - the group that until August often had to devise elaborate stratagems to communicate with the opposite sex. Some still do.

Some teenagers hang around supermarkets looking for a date. In a well-known ritual, a boy or girl will scrawl a message or pager number on notepaper which they stick on a can while somehow making eye contact with the object of their devotion.

They will then discreetly move off, and the prospective sweetheart comes to retrieve the message.

(Reuters)

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Arafat and the popular mood

THE most discouraging aspect of the recent terrorist acts is their popularity. Over the past few days, Israelis have witnessed interviews with Palestinians on television and radio in which all pretense of opposition to violence and bloodshed was dropped. Virtually all interviewees, men and women from all walks of life in Gaza as well as in Jerusalem and Hebron, echoed the extremists' call for Israel's elimination.

It seems that if there is a consensus in the Palestinian street, it is that the "armed struggle" against Israel must continue till victory, and if there is one passion which unites Palestinians, it is an abiding hatred of Israel. As one commentator put it, the old days of radical, rigid and hate-filled Arab nationalism seem to have returned.

Such moods are not carved in stone, and they are subject to change. Those who remember how King Hussein, hung in effigy in the streets of Cairo before the Six Day War, became an overnight hero in Egypt when he decided to join forces with Gamal Abdel Nasser know how volatile Middle East moods can be. But it is difficult to see how the present process will bring about an improvement in Palestinian attitudes.

The prevailing government theory is that the Islamic organizations are popular because they have been providing economic help and hope to a poverty-stricken population. Eliminate the poverty, bring prosperity to the area, and Hamas with its message of fanaticism will be shunned, say advocates of the current policies.

But even the most dedicated believers in the

agreement with the PLO admit that as long as there are Teheran-like demonstrations and terrorist attacks in Gaza, neither governments nor private investors will rush to put their money in business projects there.

This is why the government believes that the moderate forces of Yasser Arafat and Fatah will have to declare an all-out war on the Islamic extremists now or be swept away by them. The logic seems simple enough: without investment and loans the Arafat regime cannot survive, and unless the Islamic forces are defeated there will be no stability and no investments. Ergo, Hamas and Islamic Jihad must be eliminated.

But it is a logic which the mood in the street renders irrelevant. If Arafat is seen as an instigator of civil war, he will not last long as a leader. That only six out of the 18 members of the PLO executive he summoned showed up yesterday (a minimum of 12 is required for a quorum) may indicate a serious loss of popularity. He will have to tread carefully.

Arafat has been able to survive setbacks and defeats at least partly because he has a knack to sense what his public wants. He is far more likely to ride the wave of anti-Israel sentiment and continue his cooperation with the Islamic organizations than to do what Israel expects of him. He knows that what makes Hamas and Islamic Jihad popular is not their fundamentalist message, nor the financial help they give the needy, but the pain they inflict on Israel. He is not one to fight what's popular.

Asia wakes

THE Pacific Basin nations are shaping up to be the economic powerhouse of the next century. This week they took a giant step in this direction by agreeing not only to create a free trade area, but to set a target date for achieving it.

APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) groups the six members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations - Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei and the Philippines - along with the US, Japan, China, Australia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Canada, Chile, Mexico, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. If APEC achieves its goal, the group will dwarf the European Union when all trade barriers are lifted by 2020.

With incredible diversity, these states form the largest potential marketplace ever seen on the face of the earth. Many of them are advancing in education and skills at a pace that outstrips the development of the US and Europe during the first half of the present century. Many experts are predicting that the next phase of global history will be dominated by Asians. APEC has a combined population of 2.2 billion people and gross output of \$12 trillion. It already accounts for half of the world's gross product and 41 percent of international trade.

Economics dominated this week's forum, but unfortunately it was plain to see that while business is booming among the dragons of Asia, many of these countries have a long way to go towards the democracy and respect for human rights that

should be an integral part of modern development.

For example, the meeting gave an opportunity for the forgotten problem of East Timor to be paraded before the world's media, much to the embarrassment of the conference host, Indonesia. Timorese students invaded the grounds of the US embassy in Jakarta, and the APEC gathering coincided with the worst anti-Indonesian rioting for years in the East Timor capital of Dili. The Indonesians annexed East Timor, a former Portuguese colony, in 1976 and the Moslem nation's record in its treatment of the Christian state has been abysmal.

The plight of the Timorese was a timely reminder that the Islamic world would have been better off putting its own house in order in recent years before meddling and complaining endlessly about Israel's problems with its Arab neighbors.

Nonetheless, the Jakarta gathering was an impressive demonstration of willpower by these Asian nations to take the free-market road to the future, hand in hand with solid democracies like the US, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Japan. If any lessons are to be learned in our region, it is that with the European Union, the North American Free Trade Area and now the Pacific Basin showing the way, it is time for Middle Eastern states to get in on the act if they are not to be left behind, squabbling and bickering in backwardness on the threshold of the 21st century.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BIRD WATCHING

Sir, - As my return home to Great Britain is imminent, I would like to write a few appreciative words to the vultures and other raptors at Golan Nature Reserve as well as a hearty thanks to all those people connected with our project.

I spent three and a half months on top of the cliff overlooking the nests and roosting spots of the griffon vulture, Egyptian vulture and short-toed eagles. Each species has its own appeal, the griffon for its magnificence, the cheeky Egyptian vulture, especially the juveniles, and the lovingly attentive short-toed eagles which never let their young want for anything.

From the cliff top, I could see the ruins of Gamla, which added an eerie dimension to the nature reserve. What more secrets does that landscape hold?

When I began the project, I was not sure I could spend six hours looking with my eyes, a pair of binoculars and a telescope all from one spot, but it did not take long for me to become captivated. If there were no birds of prey to watch, then there was always a chuckling hyrax or chukar to keep me company, or the frequent visits of the shy gazelles ready to disappear should I get too close.

In all, Gamla is a magical place and I hope that it can be preserved in its present state, or perhaps improved upon. All I ask of the visitors and residents of the Golan Heights is not to drop litter (a disgusting habit) and to pick up anything left by others.

KRISTOFFER HEWITT

Tel Aviv

CHILDISH GOINGS-ON

Sir, - Moshe Kohn (View from Now, November 4) reports on the childish goings-on in some of our synagogues in connection with the prayer for the welfare of the state.

What intrigues me is why those who have stopped saying the prayer, or altered it as an expression of their opposition to the present government's policies, believe that these policies don't have the approval of the Holy One, Blessed be He. Where do they get their information from? Is it not obvious that the extraordinary volte-face in Mr. Rabin's views on the Palestinian problem was a miracle that can only be attributed to Divine intervention?

For decades, religious Jews have been "invoking God's light on Israel's leaders" and entreating Him "to imbue them with wise counsel." Suddenly, last year, their prayers were answered. But instead of being grateful, the country's rabbis and gabbais are up in arms. God must be very confused.

Ra'anana. NACHUM APPLETON

SPORTS COVERAGE

Sir, - For quite some time now, I have had in mind to write to you and to tell you how much I enjoy the sports section of the Post. Joe Hoffman has made it possible for me to stop buying USA Today and The International Herald Tribune. His sports pages come alive with what I miss from the "old country." The detailed reporting of games, features and standings are very important to me.

I have been a subscriber since 1967 and assume that you will be raising the subscription cost soon, but due to Joe Hoffman and your excellent editorial policy, I will continue to be a loyal subscriber in the future as well.

PAUL M. KATZ

Ma'alot Admunim

OUTRAGEOUS

Sir, - In an article that would have made Goebbels proud ("A morality of the moment," October 28), Khalid M. Amayreh states: "The Israeli occupation has made the lives of most Palestinians a living death."

Actually, these Palestinians are better off than their brothers in Syria, Iraq, Egypt and other Arab countries. They enjoy a higher standard of living, freedom of the press unknown in the Arab world, better health care (child mortality lowest in the Arab world), universities established under Israeli administration, no death penalty, let alone mass executions as in Syria and Iraq.

The one and only "atrocity" cited by Amayreh is that "soldiers under their loudspeakers to shout obscenities" and even this is not a proven fact, but only "according to some locals."

"A living death"? Hardly.
DR. JACOB ROSIN

Netanya.

BBC NEWSREADER

Sir, - While watching the BBC World Service News broadcast at 8:30 p.m. on October 24, in the section "Middle East Today," I was horrified and disgusted to hear the newsreader, Richard Barth, accuse the Israeli government of practicing apartheid against the Palestinians. Equally disgusting was the Palestinian spokesman's comments that Israel is trying to starve the Palestinian population in Gaza.

Mr. Barth's comments illustrate, once again, his antisemitic and pro-Arab bias that was so evident in British government policy until the 1990s and is still in evidence today.

It is a shame that the BBC World Service allows a person with such obvious bias to present the news.

ALETHEA R. BERMAN

Karmiel

OPINION

MEIR DOMENORIS



'Why do you Jordanians wear your berets on your heads?'

Assault on two fronts

MOSHE ZAK

IN their struggle, the Palestinians aren't just focusing on Orient House and on places like the Netzarim junction. Their moves, on both the political and terrorist fronts, are aimed at changing the principles of the Oslo Agreement.

Israeli ministers are thinking out loud about the need to negotiate possible changes in the Oslo pact with Arafat. But the Palestinian leadership, helped by facts on the ground in Jerusalem and at Netzarim, has no real need of negotiations.

Last week's terrorist attack at Netzarim might have been planned by Arafat's enemies (the PLO leader has denounced Islamic Jihad head Fathi Shkaki as being the agent of a non-Arab country, i.e. Iran). But Arafat's people are well able to exploit tragedies like Netzarim to bolster their demand that the Israeli settlement there be evacuated. This, despite the fact that the Oslo Agreement stipulates the retention of the status quo.

Statements by ministers that Faisal Hussein's challenge to Israeli rule in Jerusalem goes against Arafat's own position need to be taken with more than a pinch of salt. Hussein is adept at taking cynical advantage of Israel's desire to stay on good terms with the Palestinian Authority.

Orient House has been turned into the PA's foreign ministry, and a Palestinian university is being set up in Jerusalem. The aim: to establish facts in eastern Jerusalem.

Why did Arafat take Hussein along to the recent meeting with Prime Minister Rabin in Casablanca? It was for no other reason than to establish a precedent for raising the Jerusalem issue now, before the date specified at Oslo.

The agreement has many holes, but one thing was quite clear: there would be negotiations over "early empowerment" to the PA in Judea and Samaria. In other words, Israel would retain authority and allocate some of it to the Palestinians. But "early empowerment" didn't mean final relinquishing. During the negotiations, this fine distinction became blurred.

This week, we learned that Umm Jihad, who holds the PA's welfare portfolio, would be put in

charge of welfare activities in Judea and Samaria, which are still under Israeli military administration.

In the struggle for Jerusalem, of which the Orient House affair is just one facet, Hussein has sharpened the choice that confronts our government: he has turned it into a choice between Orient House and Hamas.

But Hussein isn't limiting himself to just one building. Orient House is serving as the springboard for a wide-ranging campaign to erode the unity of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty.

Orient House is tangible; foreign ministers and diplomats are photographed entering and leaving it. More abstract is Palestinian security's control of the Temple Mount.

Netzarim and Orient House. The Palestinians are trying to change the rules of the Oslo game

Security units answerable to Nabil Rajoub are preventing the Jerusalem mufti appointed by King Hussein from gaining access to the mount. Last month, on Faisal Hussein's recommendation, they forcibly installed their own Arafat appointee as mufti.

Hussein and some of his Jewish supporters on the fringes of Israeli society want to launch a public debate here on just the Orient House issue. But such a debate would only give Hussein a pretext to claim that in the letter Foreign Minister Peres wrote to the Norwegian foreign minister (who was acting as a mediator between Israel and the PLO), the government undertook to preserve all existing Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem. Orient House was one of these.

The problem isn't Orient House per se, but Hussein trying to give it the status and functions of a Palestinian Authority foreign office.

The dream of Israeli Arabs

YOASH TSIDDON-CHATTO

'EQUALITY now!' was the message that resonated from Arabs attending a symposium held at Tel Aviv University last month.

The objective of the gathering, entitled "Arab Politics in Israel at a Crossroads," was an overview of Israeli Arabs' political stand in the light of developments over the last year, especially the emergence of the autonomy.

About a dozen Arab speakers came to the Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies, as did around 10 Jewish academics.

All the Arab speakers without exception demanded "equality now" clearly and powerfully. This was so whether they used the beautiful, poetic Hebrew of writer and philosopher Dr. Anton Shammas or the rough, revolutionary staccato of Dr. Azmi Bishara from Bir Zeit; whether they were fundamentalist leaders or members of Zionist parties.

"Equality now," they said, has to follow close on the footsteps of "peace now," as a consequence of the latter's victory.

"Equality now," they declared loud and clear, means Israel must renounce Zionism and Jewish particularism and become the binational state it should be.

Given the fact that the Jews were the aggressors who chased the Arabs away from their land,

the speakers said the Jews must now consider the Arabs' generous offer (to let them stay), or take responsibility for the inevitable outcome.

FOLLOWING the establishment of the PLO state beyond the Green Line, the Israeli Arabs will remain the only Arabs under the Israeli boot, the speakers noted, adding that this is both undemocratic and unacceptable.

'Equality now' could become Israel's nightmare

Most of the Jewish speakers engaged in pseudo-intellectual exercises designed to try and soften the Arab message, apparently without the Arabs' permission.

One of these speakers, Alouph Hareven, tried to be helpful. He suggested that Israel consider a new flag and a new anthem acceptable to all, while the blue-and-white Star of David flag and the Hatikva remain the Jewish sector's symbols. An Arab participant added a remark about the name of

A PALESTINIAN "foreign ministry" in Jerusalem is tantamount to sinking the stake of Palestinian sovereignty in the city.

Hussein understands that his 15-minute talk with the Turkish premier at Orient House was no great achievement. Many foreign dignitaries visited the place before Tanzi Ciller.

Hussein's main aim was provocation, an attempt to prove Israel couldn't act on its warnings and prevent him from turning Orient House into an instrument of PLO diplomacy.

Up till now, Hussein has been careful not to join the PA, fearing that this would be seen as a breach of Oslo, and tie his hands in Jerusalem.

But once he found he could simply brush declarations by Israeli ministers aside, he no longer had any qualms about identifying with the PA leadership, and accompanied Arafat quite openly to his Casablanca meeting with Rabin.

He even tried to bring up the Jerusalem issue at that meeting, citing the effect the closure of the territories was having on links between Palestinians in Judea and Samaria and those in eastern Jerusalem. Later, he gave Israel an ultimatum: accept his activities in Jerusalem, or the political process would end.

Hussein was assuming that the government, unwilling to admit the failure of the endeavor with the PLO, would swallow the partition of Jerusalem he was trying to force on it.

More sophisticated than the Islamic Jihad's Shkaki, Hussein won't resort to bombings. He prefers a gradual erosion of Jerusalem's unity and of Israeli sovereignty.

Pandering to Israeli public opinion, he has denounced the Netzarim attack. But, like Shkaki, Hussein is gambling on a restrained government reaction in the interests of preserving the agreement with the PLO.

This may lead some Palestinians to treat Israeli warnings with scorn, causing the PA to take unilateral steps contrary to the interim agreement.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

Life in the lab

RONALD M. GREEN

IS it ever morally permissible to deliberately fertilize a human egg for research purposes, with no intention of transferring the resulting embryo to a womb?

This was the most difficult question faced by the members of the National Institutes of Health Human Embryo Research Panel during our eight months of work. Although members of the panel did not always agree about just how far it was permissible for scientists to move in this direction, we were unanimous in our recommendation that some development of research embryos should be permitted.

In reproductive medicine and assisted reproduction procedures, where new and potentially risky procedures are involved, it is ethically unacceptable to go directly from animal research to fertilization and transfer to a womb. This was understood by Drs. Steptoe and Edwards in the 1970s.

The need for 'research embryos' that will never develop into people

As a necessary first step in the journey that led to the birth of Louise Brown, the world's first child produced by in-vitro fertilization, Steptoe and Edwards deliberately fertilized ova and studied the resulting embryos, without transferring them to a womb.

The need for this kind of preliminary testing was also understood by the US Ethics Advisory Board, which, in its 1979 report, recommended that development of "research embryos" for just this purpose was ethically acceptable for federal funding.

Those who oppose the development of research embryos must be prepared to have untested procedures tried on children who will be born. Some of us who were members of the Human Embryo Research Panel were not.

We concluded that although the early embryo merits respect as a developing form of life, its claims upon us do not outweigh those of infants, children and adults. We also believe it is a basic tenet of the ethical practice of medicine that you test the safety and efficacy of procedures before applying them clinically. Research embryos are needed because "spare" embryos remaining from infertility research are already fertilized, and so cannot be used for research on the fertilization process itself or for research on egg maturation and egg freezing.

A better understanding of the process of fertilization could lead to the development of more effective and safer forms of contraception.

Research on egg maturation and egg freezing has many potential medical benefits. One effect could be the immediate reduction of the use of powerful drugs on women undergoing infertility procedures.

The New England Journal of Medicine recently published a study reporting increased risk of ovarian cancer among women who had been exposed to multiple cycles of infertility drugs.

If egg-maturation techniques were improved, eggs could be obtained without the reliance on stimulatory drugs, lessening some of the potential risks for thousands of the potential risks for thousands of infertility patients. Developing this ability, however, requires preliminary work in which eggs are matured, fertilized and studied without being transferred.

The panel also learned of many research areas where a better knowledge of early embryonic development could help reduce the toll of serious birth defects and childhood cancers.

But quite apart from any future benefits, we had to confront the fact that thousands of women and children are currently being exposed to unknown risks and hazards because of the lack of prior testing of medical procedures.

These considerations led us to the conclusion that a total prohibition of the development of "research embryos" would be morally wrong.

At the same time, we set stringent limits on this research, requiring, among other things, that the least number of embryos be used and only in research that cannot otherwise be validly accomplished without development of research embryos.

The writer, a religion professor and director of the Ethics Institute at Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, was a member of the National Institutes of Health Human Embryo Research Panel.
(Washington Post)

The writer is a former MK.

He blends science fact with fiction

Astrophysicist Gregory Benford explores the black hole at the center of the galaxy — in his latest work of fiction, Dennis McLellan reports

SPORTING a blue Hawaiian shirt, brown shorts and red thongs, Gregory Benford hardly looks the picture of academic decorum, let alone fits the stereotype of an internationally known astrophysicist.

The academic setting in which Benford toils provides little clue to his double life. For the past quarter-century, the Californian has parlayed his expertise of science fact into an award-winning career in science fiction.

Benford is a two-time winner of the Nebula Award, the highest honor bestowed by the Science Fiction Writers of America.

He was chosen for *If the Stars Are Gods*, his 1976 novel about the exploration of the solar system, and *Timescape*, his 1980 best-seller about a team of scientists who attempt to communicate back in time to prevent ecological disaster.

Over the past 10 years, he's been studying the center of the galaxy, specifically the dozens of massive electrical discharges occurring within a few hundred light-years of the black hole.

"Basically, I think they're a form of immense lightning," says the bearded scientist, seated at a paper-strewn desk in his office in

the physical science building at the University of California, Irvine.

Benford served on the Reagan administration panel that advocated the futuristic defense technology nicknamed Star Wars. He now advises the National Aeronautics and Space Administration on space travel and acts as a consultant for the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory in California.

His other career has also won its share of acclaim.

Benford's "accurate, telling accounts of scientists at work," as Kirkus Reviews once put it, are a hallmark of his novels. Said a *Washington Post* reviewer: "In the rapidly shrinking world of 'hard' SF, Benford is just about the best novelist now at work."

"Hard" science fiction, Benford says, is "that which is scientifically scrupulous. It's the real stuff — fiction about science the way it really is, and the science in it is accurate."

"It's not willy-nilly garbage like the media SF of 'Star Wars' and 'Star Trek' and all that trash."

HOME BASE for Benford and his wife Joan is Laguna Beach's Mystic Canyon.

Their comfortable, custom-built house, which boasts lots of wood



Benford writes what he calls "the real stuff," sci-fi in which the science is scrupulously accurate. (Al Schaben/Los Angeles Times)

and windows and a deck with a sweeping view of the ocean, barely survived a firestorm last fall that wiped out scores of nearby homes.

The Benfords, who have been married 27 years, moved here in 1972, shortly after Benford joined the faculty at Irvine. A die-hard water lover, he heads down to the beach every other day in the summer to swim, surf or scuba dive.

Benford talks about two of his favorite subjects: science fiction and the future. There is, he acknowledges, an advantage to writing science fiction as a scientist. "First, you know the landscape," he says.

"It's the same advantage of being a lawyer and writing lawyer novels, or it's [ex-police officer] Joe Wambaugh's advantage in

writing his fiction. It really helps if you know your subject matter immediately."

The events portrayed in science fiction are based on imagination, he says, "but in true science fiction you are constrained by science, and that doesn't make it any easier because it's not the ordinary world that you're describing. You have to describe it in a plausible way so an educated person would believe it makes sense, and you also have to make it interesting."

Benford comes by his ability to tell an interesting story naturally, having soaked up a lot of them as a boy in Alabama.

It also helped that his mother was a high-school English teacher who instilled in him a love of reading.

Born in 1941 in Mobile — "because that was the only hospital in southern Alabama" — he grew up in Robertsdale, a small town on the Gulf Coast.

Shortly after Benford's birth, his father, an Army reservist who taught high-school agriculture classes and oversaw agriculture education for southern Alabama, was called up for active duty.

During their early years, Benford and his identical twin, James, spent summers on their grandmother's farm. It was there, listening to his relatives, that he picked up the storytelling tradition.

When Benford's father returned from the war, he went back to teaching high school. A few years later, he accepted a commission as a regular Army officer. In

1949 he was assigned to Japan, and the family moved to Tokyo for three years, followed by three more in Germany.

It was in Japan that Benford began reading science fiction.

"I really liked it," he says, "particularly people like Robert Heinlein, who depicted a future that was much more interesting than this present and also [depicted] what kind of skill would make it possible to live and work in that future to have an interesting life."

"In other words, the core thing was science. Science would lead you to a more interesting life than something else."

A major influence in Benford's decision to become a scientist was the 1957 launch of Sputnik, the Soviet spacecraft that put new em-

phasis on science education in American classrooms.

Sputnik, Benford recalls, captured everyone's imagination.

"It fulfilled the prophecies in the science fiction I had been reading," he says. "I convinced me that science fiction was worth writing, more so than conventional fiction."

AFTER EARNING a bachelor's degree in physics at the University of Oklahoma, Benford moved to California in 1963 to work on his master's degree at the University of California, San Diego.

Seeking a respite from constant studying, he began to write short stories for relaxation. To his "vast surprise," they began to sell. "It was a pleasant hobby, but I just wanted to get my research done and get out into the real world." After earning a doctorate in San Diego in 1967, Benford went to work as a physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory but left after four years to join the Irvine faculty.

"I wanted more freedom of movement so that I could work on whatever I wanted to," he says.

Benford has had 17 novels published since 1970. His latest book, *Furious Gulf* (Bantam Spectra), is about an expedition exploring the black hole at the center of the galaxy. It's the fifth in his "Galactic Center" series, which began in 1976 with *In the Ocean of the Night*.

He just turned in the manuscript for the sixth and final volume in the series, and he's thinking about his next project: a nonfiction book about the implications of modern technologies on the distant future.

Despite what he sees as an "anti-rational, anti-scientific" stance in contemporary American society — "the standard plot structure in films and novels is 'secret government technology goes bad'" — Benford maintains a positive view, a vision that is reflected in his novels.

It's not the role of a science-fiction writer to provide solutions to problems, Benford says, "but by sketching a future you want to at least imply solutions, unless you're just going to write about a future in which everything breaks down and collapses."

(Los Angeles Times)

Problem-solving for children — let them do it themselves

A psychology professor says parents should emphasize the problem-solving process rather than focus on a solution, Mary Jo Kochakian writes

WHEN they're very young, you have to tell them how to act: "We don't hit people. It hurts them and makes them mad." "He won't want to play with you if you grab his toys away."

Years pass, and you're still telling them how to act, although probably in a less benign tone.

When parents tell children what to do, "whether it's accompanied by explanations or not, that's doing the thinking for the child," says Myrna B. Shure, a professor of psychology at Hahnemann University in Philadelphia.

"When a parent says, 'If you hit a child, you might hurt him,' that's induction, or reasoning. When I was in graduate school, that's how I learned I should talk to kids."

But children get to a point where they are able to start thinking for themselves. Parents usually aren't aware of this, Shure says. They just go on and on, telling them what to do.

Shure sees a number of problems here: Children who don't learn to think for themselves are more easily frustrated, more ag-

gressive, less able to make friends and less empathetic than children who learn to think through problems and reactions.

Shure, with colleague George Spivack, has spent about 25 years researching children's problem-solving abilities. She's developed programs to teach children problem-solving skills, and with Theresa Foy Digeronimo has written *Raising a Thinking Child* (Henry Holt, \$22.50).

CHILDREN AS young as four can be good problem solvers, Shure has found. (Children younger than that are unable to think of consequences or consider the feelings of others.)

Her approach includes teaching children to learn to consider others' feelings when making a decision, to come up with more than one solution to a problem and to think about consequences.

Her book, which is written for parents of young children, also emphasizes teaching children the vocabulary needed to discuss emotions and actions.

Shure's sample dialogue:

"What happened? Why did you kick Mary?" "I don't like her." "How do you think Mary feels when you kick her?" "Mad." "What might happen if you kick her?" "I might hurt her." "Can you think of something different to do so you won't hurt Mary and she won't feel angry?" "I could just stay away from her." "That's a different idea. Why don't you try that?"

It could take a while for both parents and children to discuss problems this way. Parents often lecture about the misdeed, which can make it difficult for kids to open up. "We've found over and over that even at that early age, if the child tells you the solution, they're much more likely to carry it out" than do what a parent instructs, Shure says.

"When they do that it makes them feel good. So you really reinforce it. 'That was your idea. They just beam,'" Shure says.

With older children, that wouldn't sound right. You could say, "Good thinking."

Parents should emphasize the process rather than focusing on



Parents usually aren't aware when their children start thinking for themselves, according to Professor Myrna B. Shure. They just go on and on, telling them what to do. (Debbie Cooper)

any particular solution.

"It's not what they thought, but that they thought," Shure says. The goal "is not to solve every problem now. Sometimes children will be resistant. But you plant the seed so the child thinks about it."

If a child responds, "I don't know," it usually means either "I don't care" or "I don't want to talk about it," Shure says.

"I don't make a big deal out of that," Shure says. "You can say, 'Maybe you can think of something later.' That takes the pressure off."

Shure's program, which she calls "I Can Problem Solve," has been shown effective for children through age 12, she says. It won't work with every kid, she says, but helps more children than not.

"Kids who grow up thinking about feelings, thinking about the causes of behavior, how they do have an impact on others, and most importantly, know that there's more than one way to solve a problem, are much more likely to have success in interpersonal relationships and feel good about themselves," Shure says.

(The Hartford Courant)

Japanese eat up Israeli culture

THE quickest way to win Japanese hearts is through their stomachs, Israeli officials apparently decided, and correctly.

During five days of \$25-a-plate buffet luncheons at the Tokyo Hilton, two award-winning Israeli chefs kicked off the Israeli Culture Festival for long lines of hungry office workers.

The pair also cooked at an official dinner party hosted by Ambassador Amos Gonor for 104 senior politicians, diplomats and bureaucrats. "The plates all went back empty," Gonor said.

The guests were then treated to a full plate of music at a sold-out gala performance featuring the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Zubin Mehta.

"The Japanese audience simply stood up at the end and stubbornly called for encore after encore until they got them," Gonor said.

Mehta had to return for nine bows after Mahler's Fifth before pleading with his audience to let him and his people go.

Over the next few weeks, the Japanese public will be able to attend movies, art shows and forums produced by Israeli artists. A wholly government-run Israeli Cultural Center is scheduled to be officially opened in Tokyo next month — the first of its kind in the world.

Mike Jacobs

THE JERUSALEM POST TOY FUND

LITTLE HEARTS BREAK EASY

Imagine a child in a poor family, or in a home for orphans or the disabled. There's always a reason, it seems, for other kids to get presents: holidays, birthdays, achievements, or just for being good.

But no gifts are there for this child. There may be no tears on the outside, but inside, another little heart breaks in silence.

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1994

Fed ups interest rates
0.75 percentage points

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve, faced with new evidence of the US economy's strength, increased interest rates yesterday for the sixth time this year, boosting rates by the largest amount since 1981.

After a closed-door meeting of its key policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee, the central bank issued a statement indicating it was pushing up two key rates.

The benchmark federal funds rate, which banks charge each other on overnight loans, was increased from 4.75 percent to 5.50%.

The Fed announced it was also raising its discount rate, the interest it charges to make direct loans to banks, by 0.75 percentage points as well.

The 0.75 percentage point in-

crease in the two key rates was the largest Fed rate hike since May 1981, when it pushed the discount rate up to 14 percent, marking the fourth full percentage-point increase in a row as it was fighting to restrain the double-digit inflation rates of that era.

The Fed said the action to boost the discount rate was taken on a 7-0 vote.

In its statement, the Fed sought to signal its resolve to fight any reappearance of inflation, which so far this year has been running at a modest annual rate of 2.8%.

"These measures were taken against the background of evidence of persistent strength in economic activity and high and rising levels of resource utilization," the Fed said in a statement.

"In these circumstances, the Federal Reserve views these ac-

tions as necessary to keep inflation contained and thereby foster sustainable economic growth," the Fed statement said.

Major banks were expected to waste little time increasing their own prime rate, the benchmark rate for many business and consumer loans.

The initial rate increases back in February and March had caused big losses on Wall Street.

However, in advance of today's widely expected increase, financial markets staged a rally as investors expressed satisfaction that the central bank was continuing to show its inflation-fighting resolve.

The Clinton administration, which last year had made lower interest rates the hallmark of its economic program, was careful not to criticize the Fed's latest move.

Committee expected to pass
capital gains tax bill today

MKs give up idea of extending tax to training funds

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee is expected to pass the capital gains tax bill today, after having decided to make no substantive changes in it.

The committee also gave up the idea of extending the tax to training funds (*kravot hishtalmud*) due to union opposition.

The committee basically ignored a legal opinion by committee legal adviser Anna Schneider, warning that two sections of the law might violate a property-protection clause in the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom.

"The matter was checked out by the attorney-general, and in his opinion, there is no infringement [of property rights]," explained Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy after the meeting.

MKs such as committee chair-

man Gedalya Gal (Labor) said they accepted this response.

One of Schneider's problems with the law was that starting in 1997, people will have to choose between two taxation options — a 10 percent tax with no offsets of losses or a 20% tax with offsets — at the beginning of the year.

Thus, two people with the same profits or losses could wind up paying different taxes.

However, Gal said that because there will be a two-year transition period during which people will be able to choose at the end of the year, there is no need to amend the law now. There will be plenty of time to make this system permanent if the MKs see that it works well, he said.

Schneider's other concern was the fact that profits are calculated on the share's price as of December 31, even if this is much lower than its purchase price.

Thus, if someone later sold the share for a price somewhere in between, he would be taxed on a "profit," even though he lost money.

Coalition whip Avraham Poraz (Meretz) said he agrees with Schneider in principle that this is unjust.

However, he said, it is impossible to determine the purchase price of a share when dealing with mutual funds, which constitute some 35% of the market.

Thus, rather than discriminate between the mutual funds and pri-

ivate purchasers, it is better to calculate all profits from the arbitrary date of December 31, he said.

Poraz said the committee also decided against exempting bonds from the tax, which it originally thought it might do, for fear that such an exemption would lead to all kinds of manipulation — such as replacing shares with convertible bonds — to avoid the tax.

In regards to extending the tax to training funds, Gal said "whole sectors of workers saw this as violating their work agreements. So we decided to reject the idea, in order not to undermine labor relations."

However, Poraz said he would propose an amendment in the plenum to extend the tax to all funds — provident, pension and hishtalmut.

Discount Investments
reports 34% drop in
third quarter net profits

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

DISCOUNT Investments, a member of the IDB Group, yesterday reported a 34 percent drop in third quarter net profits to NIS 33.17 million from NIS 50.22m. in the same period last year.

Earnings per share fell to NIS 3.5 from NIS 5.4, while revenues fell 27% to NIS 47.34m. from NIS 64.49m.

In the first nine months of the year, net profits fell 60% to NIS 66.53m. from NIS 167.9m.

The decline in third quarter profitability was mainly attributed to a 20% fall in the company's share in net profits from related firms.

The decrease was also due to a 30% drop in revenues from management and other fees to NIS 13.26m. from NIS 18.95m.

and the absence of capital gains in the quarter, compared with an NIS 4.42m. contribution to profits in the same period last year.

In the directors' report accompanying the financial statements, DIC Chairman Raphael Recanat and managing director Dov Tadmor said the company's securities portfolio fell in value by NIS 38m. at the end of the first nine months of the year.

In the third quarter, Discount Investments registered a NIS 8m. profit from the rise in the market value of the group's securities, a similar increase to the same quarter last year.

The company's total assets were NIS 1.42 billion at the end of September, while its shareholders equity was NIS 1.31b.



Representatives of Kid, one of the groups bidding for the cable home shopping station, presents its tender to Cable Council chairwoman Michal Raphael-Kaduri. The other groups submitting applications were Kanot, the Green Channel, and the Mall in the Salon. Raphael-Kaduri said companies involved with cable or Channel 2 franchises were forbidden from participating. The Home Shopping channel will operate via the cable companies but as a separate body. (Shlomi Ben-Amy)

Moneychangers in Ismailia now
willing to exchange shekels

ISMAILIA (Reuters) — Moneychangers in the Suez Canal town of Ismailia are now offering to trade shekels.

Under currency reforms in the early 1990s the moneychangers are free to buy and sell whatever currencies they choose, but they have not previously dealt in the shekel.

Saadaddin Tawfik, owner of the Savoy exchange house in Ismailia, said he first posted buy and sell

rates for the shekel four days ago but had not yet had any customers. He will buy the shekel at 1.12 Egyptian pounds and sell it at 1.18 pounds, similar to the cross-rate using the dollar.

Tawfik said he received the rates from the central bank in Cairo, but officials there said they were not in the business of dictating exchange rates to dealers. Two Cairo exchange houses said they did not accept shekels and did not plan to do so.

Granite Hacarmel posts
lower net profits

COMPANY RESULTS

RACHEL NEIMAN

GRANITE Hacarmel Investments has reported a nine percent reduction in third quarter net profits to NIS 8.6 million from NIS 9.5m. during the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 490.6m. from NIS 467.9m., while earnings per share dropped to NIS 0.07 from NIS 0.08.

Net profits for the nine-month period fell to NIS 28m. from NIS 38.9m.

Revenues decreased to NIS 1.3 billion from NIS 1.43b., while earnings per share fell to NIS 0.23 from NIS 0.32.

Granite Hacarmel general manager Arle Shachar said the primary reason for the decline in nine-month revenues was a fall in the world price of crude oil.

American-Israel Paper Mills reported a 34% increase in net profits for the third quarter to NIS 13.4m. from NIS 10m.

Revenues increased to NIS 207m. from NIS 179.8m., while earnings per share went up to NIS 353 from NIS 265.

For the first nine months of the year, net profits fell 27% to NIS 14.7m. from NIS 20.4m.

Revenues rose to NIS 589.8m. from NIS 570.9m., while earnings per share fell to NIS 387 from NIS 537.

The company attributed the rise in third quarter results to an improved US economy, while the drop in nine-month profits and revenues was blamed on a 60% increase in the world price of cellulose and other fibers used in paper manufacture.

Robomatrix reported a \$2.3m. net loss for the third quarter, compared with a \$222,000 net profit during the same period last year.

Revenues dropped to \$1.25m. from \$3.8m.

In the first nine months of the year, the company had a \$5.9m. net loss, compared with a \$860,000 net profit. Revenues fell 56% to \$3.4m. from \$7.7m.

Matzav (Cable Television Systems) announced a 39% rise in third quarter net profits to NIS 6.7m. from NIS 4.8m. during

the same period last year.

Revenues rose to NIS 46.2m. from NIS 36m., while earnings per share went up to NIS 0.31 from NIS 0.24.

Net profits for the nine-month period jumped 114% to NIS 21m. from NIS 9.8m.

Revenues increased to NIS 135.4m. from NIS 96m., while earnings per share rose to NIS 0.97 from NIS 0.49.

Machteshim Chemical Works announced a 26% decrease in third quarter net profits to NIS 4.9m. from NIS 6.7m. for the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 247m. from NIS 206m., while earnings per share declined to NIS 0.09 from NIS 0.12.

Nine-month net profits went up to NIS 52m. from NIS 44m.

Revenues increased to NIS 896.76m. from NIS 790m., while earnings per share rose 15% to NIS 0.91 from NIS 0.79.

Elec Industries has announced a rise in third quarter net profits to NIS 9.9m. from NIS 10.26m.

Revenues fell to NIS 73.8m. from NIS 81.3m., while earnings per share decreased to NIS 1.35 from NIS 1.43.

Nine-month net profits went up to NIS 28.7m. from NIS 26.6m.

Revenues dropped to NIS 257.9m. from NIS 293.6m., while earnings per share rose to NIS 3.90 from NIS 3.73.

LM Lapski reported a drop in third quarter net profits to NIS 3m. from NIS 4.1m.

Revenues fell to NIS 13.27m. from NIS 14.26m., while earnings per share decreased to NIS 1 from NIS 1.41.

Co-op Blue Square announced a 20.4% rise in third quarter net profits to NIS 7.11m. from NIS 5.9m. during the same period last year.

Revenues went up to NIS 343.31m. from NIS 268.42m.

In the first nine months of the year, net profits grew 69% to NIS 19.2m. from NIS 11.3m.

Revenues increased 31.4% to NIS 914.1m. from NIS 695.8m.

Manufacturers: Export earnings
at lowest levels in five years

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

EXPORT earnings are at their lowest levels in five years, Manufacturers Association economic division head Hezi Gutman said yesterday.

Some 55 percent of companies reported a drop in export profitability in the August to October period, while 34% reported a drop in earnings, according to a survey

of 200 firms conducted by the association.

Almost 30% of the firms said the price of exports overseas fell during the last three months, compared with 18% in the July survey and 16% in the April survey.

Almost half the companies sur-

veyed reported a rise in domestic market sales and 44% said there was a rise in exports.

According to Gutman, the continued increase in exports is due to export orders received previously.

Gutman said export profitability has become a major factor in companies' decisions whether to increase exports.

MKs agree to split 'entertainment'
phone line from informational one

EVELYN GORDON

THE 056 phone line will from now on be used only for "entertainment" services, while a new area code — 057 — will be set up for pure informational services, the Knesset Economics Committee agreed yesterday.

The change had been proposed by the Communications Ministry

so customers who want the informational services still have the option of blocking off the largely pornographic entertainment lines. These latter will now be available only on request.

Meanwhile, Communications Minister Shlomit Aloni said she would look into the possibility of shutting down the 056 lines entirely, in response to a request from committee chairman Gideon Patt (Likud).

A state-owned telecommunications company does not need to put itself at the service of purveyors of pornography, Patt said.

"I understand the committee's revulsion at the 056 services," Aloni responded. "But I will have to check whether a bill to cancel [these services] wouldn't conflict with existing laws."

Patt asked her to bring a cancellation bill within 21 days. If not, he said, he will propose his own bill on the subject.

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with your
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Our specially trained sales personnel will be available to discuss your investment needs.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (15.11.94)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.000	5.000	5.000
U.S. dollar (\$50,000)	4.900	4.900	4.900
U.S. dollar (\$10,000)	4.800	4.800	4.800
U.S. dollar (\$5,000)	4.700	4.700	4.700
U.S. dollar (\$1,000)	4.600	4.600	4.600

(Prices vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

	Buy	Sell	BANKNOTES	Buy	Sell	Rate*
Currency basket	3.2690	3.2730				3.2690
U.S. dollar	2.2032	3.0111		2.92		3.0525
German mark	1.5276	1.6520			3.06	
Pound sterling	4.7151	4.7816		4.80	1.39	1.9427
French franc	6.5581	6.5868			4.85	1.7651
Japanese yen (100)	3.2082	3.0894		0.54	0.58	0.555
Dutch guilder	1.7183	1.7426		1.69	3.12	
Swiss franc	2.0404	2.2322		1.77	1.69	3.0466
Swedish krona	0.4039	0.4142		2.29	2.37	1.7331
Norwegian krone	0.4054	0.4471		0.40	0.42	0.4148
Italian lira	2.0269	2.0507		0.45	0.45	0.4480
Finnish mark	0.5373	0.5308		0.49	0.51	0.4480
Canadian dollar	2.1846	2.2019		0.63	0.66	0.6451
Australian dollar	2.2269	2.2613		2.16	2.25	2.2516
S. African rand	0.3387	0.3394		2.30	2.16	2.2250
Belgian franc (10)	0.2387	0.3264		0.76	0.92	0.9260
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7341	2.7727		0.62	0.67	0.9437
Israeli new sheqel	1.4762	1.4858		1.25	1.25	2.7902
Jordanian dinar				1.94	1.95	
Egyptian pound				4.20	4.48	4.2850
West dr.				0.85		0.8594
West punt	3.9855	3.7172			0.90	
East punt	4.5260	4.9343				3.8978
Spanish peseta (100)	2.5167	2.5493		4.52	4.60	4.6104
				2.28	2.41	2.3364

Key Representative Rates

US dollar	NIS 2.9930	-0.17%
Sterling	NIS 4.7550	-0.18%
Mark	NIS 1.9427	-0.01%

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

DJ Industrials	8220	+0.71
DJ Transp.	1483.44	+0.7
DJ Comp.	1758.84	+0.56
S&P 500	2822.55	+0.56
NASDAQ	2544.44	+0.56
NYSE	2822.55	+0.56
AMEX	443.2	-0.12

Unmoving Advances Declines

Advances	1067
Declines	1130
Unmoving	1432

Other stock market indexes

FTSE 100	3135.4	+0.1
Nikkei 225	19311.6	+0.2
Hong Kong Hang Seng	9558.88	+0.2
Shanghai	1112.22	+0.14

Israeli stocks in NY

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5

NYSE / AMEX

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5

NASDAQ / over-the-counter

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
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Other stock market indexes

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5

Two-sided trading

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5

Afternoon

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5

Morning

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5

Parallel List

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
Amichai	12.5	+0.5
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Property, Building & Agriculture

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
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Trade & Services

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Investment Companies

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Industrials

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Oil Exploration

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Investment Companies

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Oil Exploration

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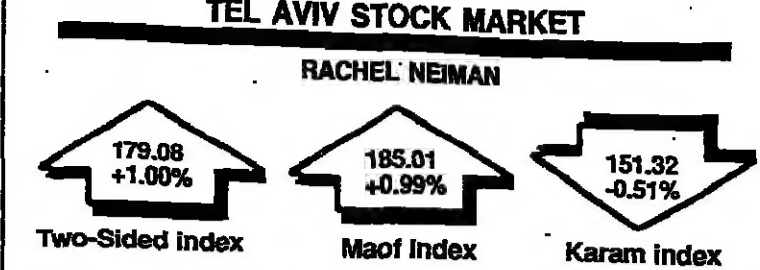
Investment Companies

Amichai	12.5	+0.5
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Industrials

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Amichai	12.5	+0.5

Two-Sided Index posts 1% gain



THE Consumer Price Index, released yesterday, was the overriding factor influencing market behavior, with general trading closing almost a point higher at 185.01.

Even though the index was announced after trading had closed, the expectations of its level influenced the markets.

Some speculated that the weakening of call options on the Maof might even indicate that a slight dip of some 2%-3% would be felt.

"If that happens, people will just dump shares tomorrow," said one trader at midday.

Shalom Har-Oz of Maof portfolio managers Storm Capital Markets called yesterday "a day of corrections. The pressure of redemptions in mutual funds has lessened and is apparently on the way to ending."

That said, Har-Oz added that "the options predict further rises" today.

The trading day opened with excess demand of some NIS 60 million on excess supply of some NIS 20m.

Demand was mostly felt on the Karam computerized index, which traded on turnover of NIS 20m. However, the trend was also felt on the options market, with FIBI leading the pack in large sum purchases.

The insurance sector rose 2.6% and oil exploration dropped 0.26%. Mashov Computers, which rose 5% at one point during the day, closed 4.2% higher on turnover of NIS 3.9m.

Delek went up 4.5% on turnover of NIS 11.4m, and La Nacional was the high gainer of the day with a 10% rise on turnover of NIS 5.8m.

Credit Lines rose 5.3% on turnover of NIS 9m, and Clal Insurance went up 6.2% on turnover of NIS 11m.

Mut-T-Lox fell 9.8% on a turnover of NIS 2.8m, having reported a 79% decrease in third quarter net profits two days earlier.

Abjaco dropped 9.9% on turnover of NIS 3m, having reported a third quarter net loss of NIS 598.01.

The bond market featured mixed trading. Index-linked and dollar-linked bonds tended downwards by some 0.14%, as did the general bond market, which closed at 139.57.

Overall, the bourse believed October's CPI would be reasonable and still harbors hopes that the annual CPI for the year will be similar to the 13% last year.

At least, said one broker, "that's what people are betting on."

FTSE Index closes 40.1 points higher

LONDON (Reuters) - British shares ended sharply higher in line with other European markets, convinced that US Federal Reserve would jack up interest rates and help stabilize world bond markets, traders and strategists said.

The FTSE 100 closed up 40.1 points at 3,135.4.

FRANKFURT - Stronger DAX futures prices pushed the German DAX index over one percent higher by the close of floor trade.

The bourse moved up in anticipation of a US rate rise.

The DAX index ended up 21.46 points at 2,110.75. In post-bourse trade, the DAX index closed up 21.17 points to 2,112.21.

PARIS - French shares finished higher, mirroring a rise on Wall Street fueled by the release of US economic data that showed strength in the economy.

"The figures apparently pleased the market," a dealer said. The CAC-40 index closed up 13.45 points, or 0.69 percent, at 1,954.53.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended mixed with a firmer bias, trade was quiet ahead of the result of the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting.

The Broad SPI closed up 1.81 points at 1,706.96.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks pulled off a technical rebound to end well ahead on an otherwise dull day.

Share indices were boosted by buying from public funds and investment trusts, with sentiment buoyed by both the firmer dollar and US and Asian financial markets.

The Nikkei share average ended 130.23 points higher to 19,391.68.

HONG KONG - Stocks closed sharply higher, cheered by Wall Street's rebound overnight and the dollar's firmness.

The blue-chip Hang Seng Index was up 186.74 points to 9,565.66.

SYDNEY - The Australian sharemarket ended higher on good volume following a stronger session on Wall Street on Monday ahead of a widely-expected US Federal Reserve hike in short-term interest rates.

The All Ordinaries index ended 15.0 points higher at 1941.4.

JOHANNESBURG - Shares ended slightly firmer as activity picked up in afternoon trade, but movements were limited ahead of an expected US rate rise later.

Dealers said the undertone was steady after gold and world markets improved.

The Overall Index was up four at 5,865, the Industrial index closed up 14 at 6,808 and the Gold index finished six better at 2,170.

Stocks close mixed

Francis new Tottenham manager

LONDON (Reuters) - Gerry Francis was handed one of the toughest jobs in English soccer yesterday - bringing the glory back to Tottenham Hotspur.

Francis, 42, who succeeds Ossie Ardiles, becomes the seventh manager or coach at Spurs since Keith Burkinshaw left in 1984.

Since then Tottenham, traditionally one of the "Big Five" of English soccer, has lurched from crisis to crisis, apart from winning the FA Cup in 1991.

Francis told a news conference at White Hart Lane: "I hope to build a championship side here."

Tottenham last won the title in 1961 when it became the first English team this century to

win the double of the league and FA Cup in the same season.

Francis, who has signed a one-year contract, will have his first training session today but his arrival heralds the departure of Steve Perryman, who was Ardiles' deputy and who worked as caretaker-manager following the Argentine's departure last month.

Francis' first match in charge will be Saturday's home league game against Aston Villa.

His initial task at Tottenham will be to stabilize the team's leaky defense which has conceded 35 goals in 16 league and Cup matches so far this season.

His immediate overall job is to ensure that Tottenham, which loses six points at the end of

the season following financial irregularities, remains in the Premier League and avoids relegation. The team is currently 13th in the standings.

Francis, who quit as manager of Queens Park Rangers last week after the club offered former QPR player Rodney Marsh the post of chief executive, admitted: "This has been a major couple of weeks in my life."

"I had to think over the situation very quickly: how many times do the opportunities to manage Spurs or Arsenal come up?"

He says he has inherited "a good squad, a lot of talented players" but admits he does not know too much about their current form because he's been managing another club.

Israel faces Azeris tonight

Under-21 side wins 2-1 in Trabzon; striker Harazi in doubt

DEREK FATTAL

THE National soccer team's preparations for tonight's European Nations Championship qualifier against Azerbaijan in Trabzon, Turkey, received a blow yesterday when striker Ronen Harazi was confined to bed with a high temperature which prevented him from joining last night's training session.

Harazi, who scored in both of Israel's previous matches in the competition against Poland and Slovakia, has proved one of the most influential players in coach Shlomo Scharf's squad. If Harazi does not play, his place will probably be taken up by Maccabi Tel Aviv's Avi Nimni, with Tottenham's Ronnie Rosenthal spearheading the attack.

Maccabi Haifa midfielder Haim Revivo impressed Scharf during training sessions held in Trabzon, and is likely to keep his place in the starting line-up. Given the heavy playing conditions expected for the game, defender Moshe Glan is unlikely to be ousted from the starting lineup by Felix Halon. Captain Nir Klinger is set to make his 60th appearance in national team colors.

Although Scharf has suggested a draw would be a satisfactory result, the Israelis need to come away with three points as they face potentially much tougher matches

against Romania and France in their forthcoming fixtures. If the side wins by a three-goal margin they will head Group 1.

Nevertheless, the Azeris could prove stiffer opposition than initially expected. Although the side holds up the group table with two losses from its opening away matches against Romania (3-0) and Poland (3-0), the former Soviet Republic has not yet received the battering many pundits forecasted. But the Azerbaijanis will not be helped by having to play the match at a neutral venue due to the unstable situation in their country.

The side will be fielding two players who appear in Israel's National League. Holon goalkeeper Alexander Zidkov and Betar Tel Aviv midfielder Shahin Denayev will no doubt have provided their coaching staff with a full dossier on the capabilities and weaknesses of the Israeli team.

These two skillful players will be supported by a number of colleagues who play for top clubs in Russia and Belarus. The most notable being Dynamo Moscow's Dmitri Karmensko and Ramiz Memedov who plays across the city at Spartak, while Ruslan Lashkin is a useful performer with Dy-

samo Minsk. Today's encounter kicks off at 19:00 (Israel time) and will be televised live on Channel 1. In other Group 1 action today, Poland hosts France.

Azerbaijan 1, Israel 2
If the Israeli side's preparation is as close to the real thing as shown by the Olympic (Under-21) side which beat its Azeri opponents yesterday, a powerful shot on the edge of the area by Alon Ophir gave Israel a third-minute lead, but Azerbaijan's Blagovest Isayev leveled within seven minutes.

Early in the second half Israeli defender Ofer Talber received his marching orders from the referee after a second booking. Later, the Azeris were also reduced to 10 men when the referee again reached for his red card.

Two attacking substitutes brought on by Israeli coach Yitzhak Shumi linked together to win the game, as Liron Basie steered in Najwan Grayev's 89th-minute cross from close range.

In other Under-21 action in Israel's group yesterday, Poland 1, Czechoslovakia 0. The away win takes the French to the top of the Group, ahead of Israel on goal difference.

Also, Israel's youth side emerged 3-0 victors over the Ukraine in the countries' meeting yesterday at Ashdod.

European Under-21 Championship qualifying group one

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA
France	3	2	1	0	7	0
Israel	3	2	1	0	8	7
Czechoslovakia	3	1	1	1	5	4
Poland	3	1	1	1	7	4
Slovakia	3	0	1	2	0	5
Azerbaijan	3	0	0	3	5	12

Baseball owners back off salary cap

NEW YORK (AP) - Major League Baseball owners will drop their demand for a salary cap in their new collective bargaining proposal, and instead will ask for a tax on their revenues or payrolls.

The shift, revealed Monday by the owners' chief negotiator, Red Sox chief executive officer John Harrington, marks management's first change in strategy since June 14.

The new proposal will be given to the union Thursday when talks resume in Washington.

"It's not a salary cap in the strictest terms," Harrington said from his home in Massachusetts. "A tax concept can look like a salary cap, and any tax plan is meant to put some controls on labor costs."

"All payrolls would be taxed at a low percentage. All clubs would be affected above a certain level," Harrington said.

The significance of the new proposal will depend on the level of the tax. A high percentage presumably would be rejected by the union. A lower number could lead to additional negotiations.

A shift from a salary cap had been expected since three days of talks between players and owners ended Saturday.

"I wouldn't get overly optimistic about movement off the cap because there are tax programs that are worse than a salary cap and tax programs that are better," union lawyer Gene Orza said.

When owners first proposed a salary cap, players said they would never accept one. The cap would limit the total amount a team could spend on salaries - but it would still be up to owners to decide how to split that amount among players.

The salary cap issue was what led to the strike, which went through its 95th day Monday after causing the cancellation of the World Series for the first time since 1904.

Steelers blast Bills, 23-10



PITTSBURGH (Reuters) - Rod Woodson scored on a 37-yard interception return and forced a fumble that was recovered for a touchdown as the Pittsburgh Steelers beat the Buffalo Bills 23-10 on Monday.

Pittsburgh (7-3) remained a game behind the Cleveland Browns in the AFC Central. Buffalo (5-5) is 500 this late in the season for the first time since 1987.

Pittsburgh held a 3-0 lead in the final minute of the first quarter when Woodson picked off a sideline pass from Jim Kelly and raced untouched 37 yards down the left side of the field to push the Steelers' advantage to 10-0.

The Steelers had a 16-3 lead at the half with the help of three field goals by Gary Anderson.

Buffalo made it 16-10 when Kelly connected with Andre Reed for a 19-yard score in the third quarter.

With the Bills pinned deep in their own end, Kelly dropped back into the end zone to pass and was sacked by the blitzing Woodson, jarring the ball loose and tackle Gerald Williams recovered for a touchdown.



WAY OF THE BUFFALO - Buffalo Bills quarterback Jim Kelly is sacked by Pittsburgh's Rod Woodson on Monday. (AP)

Oilers fire head coach, assistant

HOUSTON (AP) - The Houston Oilers, whose 1-9 record is the worst in the National Football League, fired coach Jack Pardee and assistant Kevin Gilbride on Monday.

Jeff Fisher, the team's defensive coordinator, was chosen to replace Pardee and was given a three-year contract.

"We came to the conclusion that now was maybe the time to make the move so Jeff could take over the team," Oilers owner Bud Adams said. "We feel Jeff is a very capable young man who has a future in the NFL."

"I assure you from the kickoff to the last play ... this team will play like they are fighting for home-field advantage in the playoffs," Fisher said.

"This season is starting over. The 1995 season starts this afternoon."

Fisher, 36, came to Houston this year from San Francisco, where he was an assistant. At Houston he succeeded Buddy Ryan, who became head coach of

the Arizona Cardinals after a stormy 1993 season in which he punched Gilbride on the sidelines during a nationally televised game.

Fisher's first game in charge of the Oilers will be next Monday night at home against the New York Giants.

Pardee and Gilbride, who was in charge of the offense, had been under fire since the start of the season for the team's woeful performance.

The Oilers lost at Cincinnati 34-31 Sunday. Both teams entered the game with 1-8 records.

Pardee was in the final year of a five-year contract. In the previous four seasons, the Oilers made the NFL playoffs but failed to get past the first round. Last year, the team started 1-4 but reeled off 11 straight victories to finish 12-4 and win the AFC Central Division title.

During the off-season, however, the Oilers lost defensive linemen William Fuller and Sean Jones to free agency.

Manley appears in court

HOUSTON (AP) - Former Pro Bowl defensive end Dexter Manley, who was banned from the NFL for violating the league's drug policy, appeared in court yesterday after an arrest for felony possession of crack cocaine.

Manley, 36, was arrested Sunday night and was released Monday after posting \$5,000 bail.

He appeared yesterday morning with his attorney Paula Asher. A December 6 arraignment has been

scheduled.

Unable to read until 1986, Manley had been an inspiration and also a frustration to the fans who followed his colorful, yet turbulent career.

In 1981, Manley was drafted by the Washington Redskins in the fifth round and went on to play in three Super Bowls.

He had 97 sacks in his NFL career, which ranks fourth in league history.

Jazz win as Knicks stall

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - New York Knicks coach Pat Riley will have a hard time getting over his team's fourth-quarter performance against the Utah Jazz.

"We got hung up on 88 points forever and just could not get over the hump," Riley said after Utah rallied from an 88-83 deficit with 10 minutes remaining Monday to rout the Knicks 110-97 in the only NBA game that night.

"They just took it right to us. It was a bad, bad fourth period. ... We turned the ball over and they were just getting layups."

Antoine Carr scored in the lane to start a 16-0 run, John Stockton tied it with a 3-pointer with 9:05 remaining and the Jazz didn't allow another point until they had the game well in hand at 99-88 with five minutes left.

"I can't explain to you how big this win is," said Karl Malone, who had 29 points and 13 rebounds as the Jazz ended a three-game losing streak.

National hoopsters face Spain tonight

JOEL GORDIN

THE national basketball team faces Spain tonight in the last fixture of the final preliminary round of the European Nations Tournament.

The game is a formality. Both Spain and Israel have already qualified for the final to be held next summer in Greece. The two best-placed teams from each pool go to Greece, and in pool D Spain is 5-0 and Israel is 4-1, way ahead of the Czech Republic (1-4) and Turkey (0-5).

However, much prestige rests on the result. After Spain's poor results in last year's World Championship, coach Manuel Saneaz badly needs the morale boost of an unbeaten record in the semifinals.

On the other hand, much-maligned Israeli coach Zvi Sherf would dearly like his squad to finish at the top of the pool. Israel can do so by winning by more than 10 points (Spain won last year's first leg 79-69).

Spain will be playing without the host of stars well known to Israelis from European contests. Juan San Epifanio, Juan Cargil and Rafael Jofresa are no longer available while Antonio Martinez and Jordi Viacamps are injured.

Saneaz's team is based upon three new point guards, Anson Rodriguez, David Sila and Jordi Solar and the giant centers Paron Martinez (2:14m.) and Alfonso Albert (2:10m.).

Israel will be without Doron Shefer who has returned to Connecticut.

The game starts at 20:30 and will be shown live on cable TV.

The final qualifiers for the pool are: A - Croatia, Sweden; B - Lithuania, Slovenia; C - Russia, Finland; D - Italy, France. Champion Germany and host country Greece are automatically in the finals.

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